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THE ITALIAN QUESTION.

In the event of a war between France and Austria, in what way ought the influence of Great Britain to be exercised? This, we apprehend, is the great political inquiry of the day, and it is one to which every public man ought to be ready with an answer. But as it is as complicated as important, we shall be excused for dealing with it in some detail before pronouncing our decision.

In the first place, war itself in the present state of the world is something to be deprecated and resisted by every possible means. Nothing can in any way excuse it but absolute necessity, considering the horrors it produces, the property it destroys, and the burdens it imposes. Whatever Power, therefore, begins it, is bound to show ample and satisfactory reasons—reasons as conclusive as those with which a surgeon urges the necessity of an operation. Supposing France to take the step, the state of Italy will no doubt be the pretext. And already France has moved towards war. When the Emperor made his famous speech to Hubner, he perfectly well knew the excitement it would produce. In fact, he must have designed to raise Italy in this indirect manner, that he might have a pretext afterwards for armed intervention. The note in the "Moniteur" was a mere touch in the drag-chain to check things, not to stop them. So that the *onus* will lie, come what may, on the Emperor of showing why he should have exposed Europe to whatever may follow.

The excuse, of course, is, that the "state of Italy" requires his intervention; that Austria, as an Italian Power, is responsible for this state, and that the sympathies of the world ought to be with him who would improve the condition of an interesting southern people oppressed by misgovernment. Now, there is much plausibility in this; and it commends itself accordingly to generous and liberal minds all over Europe. Undoubtedly, we have no liking in England for anything of the nature of oppression, and it would be much pleasanter to know that there was nothing of the kind in existence. How pleasant would it be to reform the whole grievances of the world!—slavery, cannibalism, the rule of strangers, the ugly despotism of priests, or

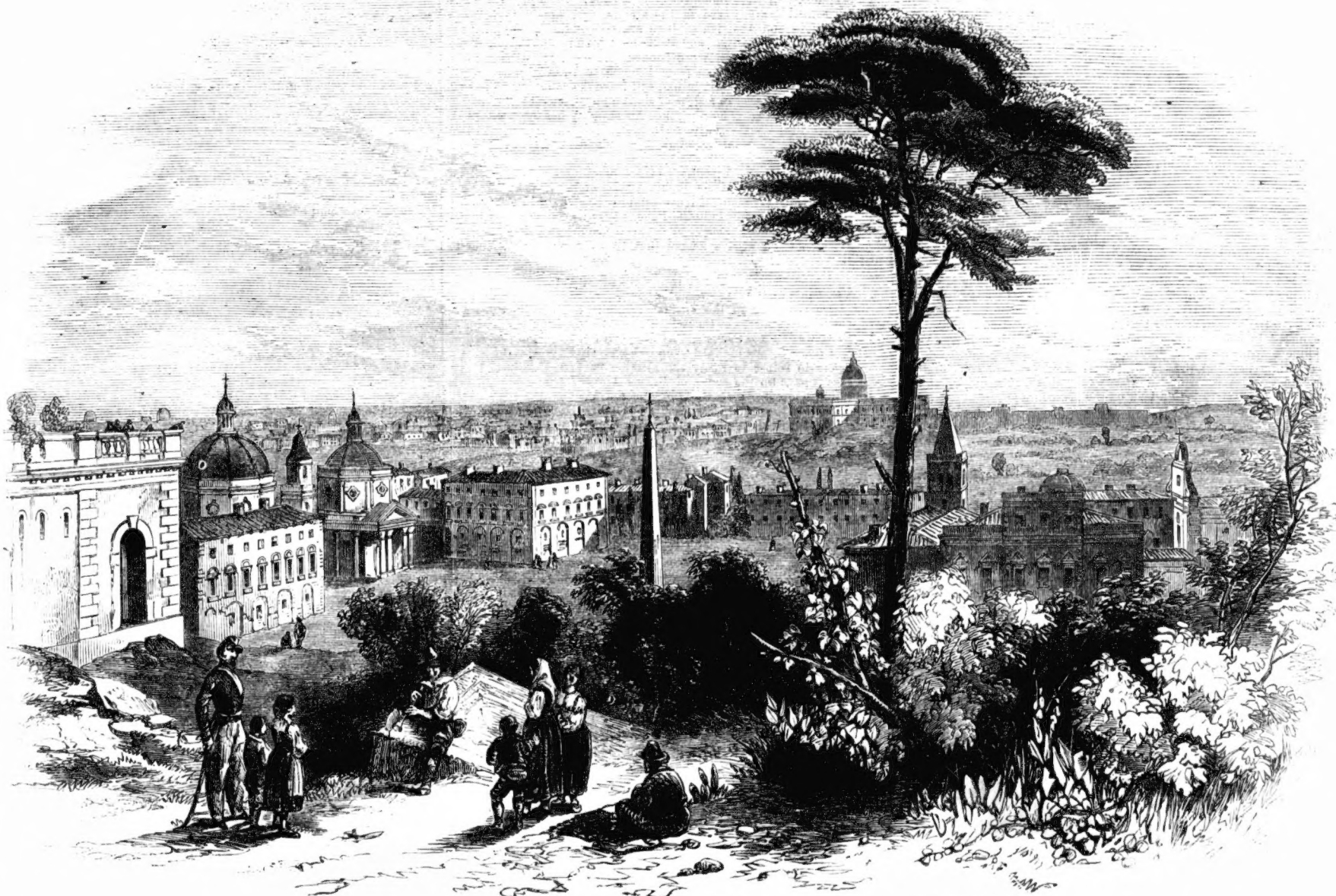
whatever else is disgusting to the moral eye! If mere sentiment and sympathy are anything, Italy enjoys these abundantly from us. But, then, what can we do, and in what company, to benefit Italy practically? That is the point, which is unfortunately much more difficult to settle than it is to indulge kindly visions. Every nation has some business of its own as a private man has his own business. Is it a part of *ours* to undertake the liberation of one portion of a country from one tyrant, one from another, and a third from a foreign Power which has acquired its possessions by marriages, and had them confirmed by treaties?

We cannot, to speak plainly, make up our minds that it is our business to do anything of the sort. And the more clearly this is understood, the better. The principle of such interventions is bad. What should we think of it ourselves? What do we say when foreigners discuss our own Indian or our own Irish government? We bid them mind their proper affairs. Providence has given to each nation a certain unity for the better ordering of the world, that each nation, though related to others, may yet move in its proper sphere. Great Britain is related to other nations as wholes, but is not bound to meddle with any inner matter peculiar to each. Italy is to her no more than France or Germany. She is no more entitled to be freed from evils at our expense than France is. If we begin to act for Mazzini, why not for Kossuth? why not for Louis Blanc? The answer is, that in this imperfect world a nation's range of doing good, like an individual's, is necessarily limited. We cannot reform the grievances of foreign peoples, nor have we half reformed our own.

So much for the principle. But suppose we come to the question of the *prudence* of a junction with France in her supposed desire to "reform" Italy. France invades Italy, we will say, as a friend, and tries to drive the Austrians out of it. Well, at first, Piedmont fights—gallantly, no doubt, along with France—and plenty of volunteers from other parts join them. But revolution is the natural result at once, and at once comes disunion between every Italian who is for kingly and every Italian who is for republican government. We know from the accounts of last war what *that* state of things is. Meanwhile, France has

an immense force, and is master of the situation; Italy, therefore, is occupied by French armies just as Rome is, at present. How "liberty" will fare then, everybody knows. The most probable result to be expected would be a renewal of the revolutionary movement in France itself, and then despotism will indeed be the order of the day. French soldiers, flushed from war, will be let loose on their own countrymen.

It may be a want of faith on our parts, but some such result as the above is all we expect from a French-Austrian war, and therefore we desire to see Great Britain keep clear of it. To be sure, it is not impossible that even French ascendancy would do some administrative good in districts like the Papal States,—degraded by the most abominable misrule for years. But when we consider the price at which it would be bought, and its probable temporary nature, it may fairly be doubted whether the balance of advantage would be in its favour; and if mankind gained anything in the long-run from such ascendancy, it would perhaps be the further weakening of the Papacy. Much as we desire that object, it is difficult to see what there is to replace even the effete church system in a country like Italy. The common people are notoriously superstitious. On the other hand, the Papacy never yields on principle. If Louis Napoleon should coerce the Pope, it will not make the Pope a reformer, and the result will still be simply and purely French ascendancy. Assuming this to be brought about jointly by France and Piedmont (and the King of Sardinia's speech looks very much as if France had made him a dupe), we need not expect Piedmontese constitutionalism to last long; nor any other phenomenon but Louis Napoleon for virtual Italian suzerain, with Savoy as one vassal, and perhaps (if Bomba can be turned out) a Muratist Prince of Naples for another. It is impossible to suppose that Russia would permit Austria to be driven to such extremities, after all their quarrelling; so the reader sees what a grand war the whole imbroglio may end in. And if one week's disturbance of confidence can make such commercial confusion as last week's did, fancy the results from *that* point of view! with France not in a fundamentally healthy financial state, and Piedmont in an admitted annual deficit.



PIAZZA DEL POPOLO, ROME, THE PROPOSED RESIDENCE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES

We need scarcely say that these observations spring from no special sympathy with Austrian government in Italy, which must be necessarily offensive to a race of different blood and character, but which England can only contemplate politically as it does the Turkish government in Arabia, or the Spanish government in Cuba. If Lombardy can win her freedom with her own sword, and defend it with her own shield, well and good. Let her reap the fruits of her valour, and enjoy her independence in the form she best likes. But so much at least we may claim from her, and cannot be expected to relish a mere movement of hate, partly "red republican," and undertaken chiefly in the hope of assistance from French despotism and Sardinian ambition. Besides, there is a feature of the Austrian government very little considered in this country, yet surely not wholly unworthy of consideration. Though deeply unpopular among the student class and well-to-do class, is it not true that the Austrian government in Lombardy looks carefully to the condition of the peasantry and work-people, and that they have a respectable degree of comfort under its rule? Such at least is the testimony of the economists—a sound enough liberal, Mr. McCulloch, for instance—and certainly among many complaints, complaints from this point of view are the fewest.

Yet, we are not coming to the conclusion that England should take the side of Austria in the coming (if it is coming) struggle or violate her principle of non-intervention for her sake more than for that of France, Piedmont, or Mazzini. Let us, if advice can do anything, advise a compromise, and modify, if we can, the uglier features of Lombard administration, and that in friendly conjunction with all the Powers interested. But if they will fight, let them fight without us. We have had enough of dynastic and political wars, to which our vast debts are chiefly owing; with the consequent grievous taxation; and there is no denying that our domestic interests, home and colonial, have been too much neglected in consequence. At the present time, also, we are drained of men for our Indian service, and are on the threshold of the important difficulty of Indian finance. Should the war burst out, an increase of our naval force will be immediately necessary, and this, of course, must be provided. With hostilities going on in Italy, a respectable British fleet is a matter of course in the Mediterranean, while war anywhere in Europe demands a good British force in the Channel. A reform bill will strengthen our internal politics meanwhile; and when there has been blood enough shed for the "glory" of despots on one side and the other—the arbitration of a strong, independent, and fresh Power may be worth having. Such we take to be the national and rational view of the situation, and we give it as our decided answer to the question with which we set out.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES has commenced his military career by presenting colours to the 100th (the Prince of Wales's Royal Canadian) Regiment of Foot at Shorncliffe Camp. The Prince was accompanied by his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, and attended by Colonel Bruce, Captain Grey, and a distinguished staff. After the regiment had been duly paraded, and the usual formalities had been gone through, his Royal Highness, on presenting the colours, said:—

"Lord Melville, Colonel de Rottenburg, and officers and soldiers of the 100th Regiment.—It is most gratifying to me, that, by the Queen's gracious permission, my first public act since I have had the honour of holding a commission in the British army should be the presentation of colours to a regiment which is the spontaneous offering of the loyal and spirited Canadian people, and with which, at their desire, my name has been specially associated. The ceremonial in which we are now engaged possesses a peculiar significance and solemnity, because in confiding to you for the first time this emblem of military fidelity and valour I not only recognise emphatically your enrolment into our national force, but celebrate an act which proclaims and strengthens the unity of the various parts of this vast empire under the way of our common Sovereign. Although, owing to my youth and inexperience, I can but very imperfectly give expression to the sentiments which this occasion is calculated to awaken with reference to yourselves and to the great and flourishing province of Canada, you may rest assured that I shall ever watch the progress and achievements of your gallant corps with deep interest, and that I heartily wish you all honour and success in the prosecution of the noble career on which you have entered."

After the ceremony the Prince of Wales left for Dover, where he embarked for Ostend, on his visit to Rome. The residence of the future Monarch of Great Britain, even for a short period, in that city, has given rise to not a little feeling even among Church circles. One party thinks he will be injured by what he sees and hears in Rome; another party is of opinion that Romanism in the city of Rome will provoke his antagonism and strengthen his faith. Those who are most alarmed at Roman Catholic ceremonial, show the greatest feeling on this subject; those who are not so much alarmed say that the young Prince has received such a Protestant education as will preserve him from being tempted. The Prince of Wales, it is to be observed, will reside at Rome and travel over Italy in another name than that by which he is recognised, and his movements and curiosity will, no doubt, be regulated by his governor, his equerry, and his chaplain, who will keep him company all the way.

We believe that the permanent residence or head-quarters of the Prince, in Italy, is chosen in the Piazza del Popolo, at Rome, of which we present our readers with a view on the preceding page.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE IONIAN ISLANDS.—Mr. Gladstone will not, it is believed, return from the Ionian Islands in time to take part in the deliberations of Parliament, which ministers are believed to have put off until the beginning of February. Nevertheless, Mr. Gladstone seems to have completed his inquiry, if he has not already drawn out his recommendations to the Government at home. It is believed that Sir John Young has resigned.

RAILWAY RECEIPTS FOR 1858.—It appears from the traffic returns published weekly that the receipts in railways in the United Kingdom for the year 1858 amounted to £23,263,765 on 9,016 miles, against £23,672,463 on 8,690 miles in the year 1857, showing a decrease in the receipts of 408,700, and an increase in the mileage of 326 miles. The past was the first year since the establishment of railways in the United Kingdom of a decrease, instead of an increase, in the receipts, each year from the commencement having shown a steady increase over preceding years. The progressive increase of railway traffic from 1842 to 1857, averaged £1,317,500 per annum over each preceding year, thus increasing the aggregate receipts in the course of fifteen years by £19,762,000. The decrease, above-mentioned, of £408,700 appears small as compared with the total amount of the receipts, but when added to the usual increase of railway traffic annually—namely, £1,318,500—makes an actual deficit of £1,827,200, and hence the serious reduction in the ordinary dividends. The decrease is referred to the competition for the Manchester traffic and the effects of the commercial panic of 1857.

SPIRITUALISM.—Dr. Randolph, a prominent "medium" in the earlier days of spiritualism, delivered a lecture recently in New York on this subject. He says:—"I was a medium about eight years, during which time I made three thousand speeches, and travelled over several different countries proclaiming the new gospel. I now regret that so much excellent breath was wasted, and that my health of mind and body was well-nigh ruined. I have only begun to regain both since I totally abandoned it, and to-day had rather see the cholera in my house than be a spiritual medium! For years I lived alone for spiritualism and its cognates. Five of my friends destroyed themselves, and I attempted it by direct spiritual influences. Every crime in the calendar has been committed by mortal movers of viewless being! I will state here my opinion of clairvoyant doctors. Experience has taught me that 65 per cent. of the medical clairvoyants are arrant knaves, humbugs, and catchpenny impostors, who are no more clairvoyants than a brick wall."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

AFTER the French funds had fallen nearly three per cent., in consequence of the now famous New Year's Day "bouteade" of the Emperor, the "Moniteur" of yesterday paraded the following sentence:—"For some days public opinion has been agitated by alarming reports, to which it is the duty of the Government to put an end, by declaring that nothing in our diplomatic affairs authorises the fears which these rumours tend to create."

Nevertheless the funds, which had risen upon the report that the "Moniteur" would speak, fell when it had spoken. The betrothal of Prince Napoleon to the eldest daughter of the King of Sardinia, strengthening the apprehensions that already existed, aided in the fall of securities by one per cent. The Prince was to have left Paris for Turin yesterday; and we must suppose, of course, that his object in going there is to make overtures of love to his future wife, and not for any political reason.

The "Moniteur" publishes a decree convoking the Senate and the Legislative Assembly for the 7th of February.

SPAIN.

FIVE ships of the Spanish squadron have been despatched on a visit to the coast of the Riff and the garrisons of Ceuta and Melilla. The demands of the Spanish are—To be placed in the same position as France and England in relation to the Riff. The liberation of several Spaniards, including an officer, at present prisoners with the people of the Riff. An extension of territory around Melilla.

A proposition of Senor Oleaga to revoke the last reform made in the constitution, has been unanimously rejected by the committees of the Congress.

AUSTRIA.

THE Emperor of Austria has replied in a re-assuring tone to the alarming language of his cousin of France. Addressing himself to the French Ambassador at Vienna, Francis Joseph said:—"I am sincerely touched by the personal statements of the Emperor. Assure him that, notwithstanding the differences required by the necessities of politics, I never ceased to experience for his person the most profound esteem and the liveliest sympathy." This little speech, however, had no good effect on the Bourse.

A conspiracy, which, however, seems to have been but of small extent, has been discovered at Cracow for the re-establishment of Polish independence, and arrests have taken place in consequence. The Austrian journals describe the affair as not very important, in fact as something on a level with our Irish Phoenix conspiracies; but letters printed in the Paris papers will have it that the conspiracy is one which stretches far into Galicia, and of which only a very small part has as yet been brought to light.

ITALY.

AT the opening of the Sardinian Chambers, the King made a speech which has added to the general alarm at the position of affairs in Italy. The following is given as a summary of the royal speech.

"The King thanks the Chamber for the assistance afforded him during the last session, which consolidated the national policy and the progress of Piedmont. He announces that Government will bring in bills for judicial, administrative, and municipal reform. He regrets that the financial crisis and the scarcity of silk crops prevent a balance in the national exchequer. His Majesty says that the political horizon is not clear, but that the future must be awaited with firmness. The future cannot fail to be fortunate, because the policy of Piedmont is based on justice and love of its country's liberty. Piedmont is small, but great in the councils of Europe, on account of the principles it represents, and the sympathies it inspires. It respects treaties, but is not insensible to Italy's cry of anguish."

The King concludes with the words: "Let us resolutely await the decrees of Providence."

It is added that "prolonged acclamations" followed the conclusion of the speech.

As we have recorded under another head, the eldest daughter of the King of Sardinia is to marry Prince Napoleon; a significant alliance, it is thought.

The ferment still continues in Austrian Italy. Cries of "Long live Victor Emanuel" are heard in the streets, and squabbles between Italian civilians and Austrian soldiers are frequent. Meanwhile, the garrisons of Verona, Mantua, and Pavia have been reinforced; and the fortresses are being completely provisioned. The whole Austrian army in Italy will shortly be raised from 120,000 to 150,000 men. It is feared that the Archduke Maximilian will leave the country, and in that case Milan will be placed in a state of siege under General Giulay.

There is good news from Naples. An amnesty has been accorded, under which sixty-one prisoners have been pardoned. Amongst them are Poerio and Settembrini, who have been released and sent out of the country.

The Duke of Calabria, hereditary prince of Naples, was married on Saturday to the Princess Maria Sophia Amelia of Bavaria.

On New Year's-day General Guyon and his Staff went in state to the Vatican, to pay their respects to the Pope. On this occasion very high-flown compliments were exchanged between the priest and the soldier, who hate each other with a hatred that they are not always able to conceal.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

THE accounts of the late events in Serbia seem to have produced a considerable sensation in the Turkish capital. "When the news arrived, the representatives of the great Powers met at the grand Vizier's, and afterwards at Fuad Pacha's. At first, the Porte, at the suggestion of M. de Prokesch, was inclined to oppose the proceedings of the Skupstchina, and to refuse to ratify the election of Prince Milosch; but afterwards it gave up the cause of Prince Alexander, and proposed to replace him, temporarily at least, by the president of the Senate, M. Garaschani. Afterwards, however, it gave way, and the idea prevailed that it would sanction the choice of Prince Milosch." The "Presse d'Orient" says that the Divan will send a note on the subject to the Legations.

AMERICA.

Congress has refused, by a vote of 28 to 20, to take up a bill passed last session, giving lands to colleges in aid of education in agriculture and the mechanic arts. A bill was proposed appropriating 1,000,000 dollars, to enable the President to settle outstanding difficulties with Spain, and acquire possession of Cuba. It was referred to the committee on foreign affairs.

The schooner *Susan*, which recently escaped from Mobile, landed her filibuster passengers near the mouth of the river Colorado. About 1,000 men had previously arrived. Other expeditions were notoriously being fitted out.

Advices from British Columbia report that the Governor of British Columbia had issued proclamations revoking the crown grant to the Hudson Bay Company, organizing the Colonial Government, legalising his previous acts, and adopting the laws of England. Mr. Nugent, United States special agent, had published an address to the citizens of the United States in British Columbia, in the "Victoria Gazette," in which he speaks of the injustice and oppression Americans had received at the hands of the colonial authorities, and intimating his intention to lay the matter before the authorities at Washington.

SERBIAN AFFAIRS.

THE position of Austria towards the Serbians has assumed a serious aspect. Troops have been marched to Semlin, a town within two hours' march of Belgrade; and the commandant of Semlin has been instructed to enter Belgrade, if the Turkish Pacha who holds the citadel there asks for Austrian assistance. To this order of the day, the Great Powers are said to have objected, contending that it might lead to a violation of the Paris treaty, and even of the purposes for which the war was waged against Russia. Austria refuses to withdraw her order; the Powers persist in requiring her to do so; and thus, if these state-

ments are correct, the present European complication has a phase in it which was scarcely apprehended.

The Serbian Skupstchina and Senate have "passed a bill" enacting that both Chambers shall meet annually for the purpose of "making laws, granting taxes, impeaching ministers or public functionaries, and taking cognizance generally of whatever concerns the well-being of the country." A clause is added in the bill making it high treason to disobey the legal decisions of the Skupstchina. Alexander Karageorgewitch has formally abdicated.

THE ARMIES OF AUSTRIA AND SARDINIA.

AN "Old Soldier," writing to the "Daily News," thus contrasts the armies of Sardinia and Austria:—

"The Austrian army is divided into armies, army corps, divisions, and brigades. A brigade consists of four battalions of the line, one battalion of light infantry, one battery of foot artillery. A brigade of cavalry consists of from two to three regiments of heavy or of light horse, or of two regiments of heavy and one regiment of light horse; one battery of horse artillery. A mixed brigade is composed of three or four battalions of the line, one light battalion, one division of cavalry (two squadrons), one foot battery. A division is thus composed: two brigades of infantry, one or two divisions of cavalry (from two to four squadrons). A division of cavalry consists of two brigades of cavalry.

"An army corps is composed as follows:—Two or three infantry divisions, one brigade or division of cavalry, artillery strong by two field batteries, one or two horse batteries, one or two howitzer batteries, one detachment of pioneers, one company of hospital attendants, half a squadron of dragoons of the staff, one detachment of guides, one division of bridge equipment, one division of land transport, one division of bakers, one division of artificers.

"A cavalry army corps consists of two divisions or four brigades.

"The military power of Austria is arranged in four armies, as follows:—1st army is formed of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 9th army corps; 2nd army, of 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th; 3rd army, of 10th, 11th, 12th army corps, and 1 corps d'armee of cavalry; 4th army is composed of 4th army corps. Each army possesses a reserve of artillery equal to 3 foot batteries, 1 horse battery, 1 howitzer battery.

"Total effective field force of Austria (not comprising depôts), 476,000, with 1,140 guns.

"Sardinia has infantry 10 brigades, or 20 regiments of four battalions, or 16 companies each regiment. The effective of a regiment of the line, 1,355 men. Force of infantry of the line, 27,100. Corps of sharpshooters (Bersaglieri) 10 battalions of four companies each battalion, 4,677. Total of foot, 31,177.

"The cavalry consists of nine regiments, five squadrons to each regiment. There are four regiments of cavalry of the line, and five regiments of light cavalry. Total force of cavalry, 5,715.

"Total force of artillery, 4,114 men, with 80 field guns. Pioneers (sappers), 1,159 men. Transport Corps, 4 companies, 474 men. The above, together with "carabinieri," light cavalry of Sardinia (Isle of), hospital service, &c., make the total force of the Sardinian army about 47,600 men and 80 guns. This force might be doubled by calling out the reserve."

AMERICAN AND ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

Two United States engineers came to Europe to study its railways, and in July last published a report of their observations and investigations on both sides of the Atlantic. To a large extent, the report of these gentlemen is technical and scientific, and more fitted for professional than popular exposition. But there are some leading facts in it which it will be useful to make the English public (too apt to make foreign investments) acquainted with. We propose, therefore, to dip a little into the story Messrs. Colborn and Holley, after their experience of Europe, tell the people of the United States. They at once start by confessing the inferiority of United States engineering. "Works," they very truly say, "which eat themselves up as fast as ours do, must be founded on a low standard of engineering." In Europe it is otherwise. "As a science, engineering is ably cultivated and creditably applied in Europe." In American works of construction, "everything—the future especially—is sacrificed to the present. Quantity, not quality, is the staple demand."

"Engineering, in all but its routine merely, is a business for which every two—surveyor, speculator, or large stockholder, deems himself entirely competent. There is no standard whatever of qualification excepting that of doing the most work for the least money. And engineers have followed this so far as to have often robbed their works of their vital profession. Wherever engineers have thus degraded themselves and their profession, by sacrificing their better judgment to the cupidity of ignorant proprietors, they have fallen, hopelessly, to the rank of mere tools for contractors and railway directors."

The consequence is, as a general rule, United States railways have not been constructed on the plans or under the direction of competent engineers.

"Each new line has its own 'chief,' born to the occasion, who, thus raw and compliant, devotes himself to the routine of the field and the office, while the president of the concern dictates the proportions of earthworks, the shape and quality of rails, and the selection of machinery and materials generally."

Of course, this fundamental fault of the Americans has not produced any real economy even in the actual sums spent on permanent way. After analysing and eliminating the cost of English and American permanent way, after rejecting excessive cost of land and parliamentary expenses, Messrs. Colborn and Holley say that the cost of one mile of permanent way for an English road, with a 70 lbs. rail, and assuming given quantities of earth in each case, is 15,806 dollars against 14,532 for one mile of American railroad with only a 60 lbs. rail. That, however, is the cost in money only of two respective miles of English and American railroads; but, add the American engineers:—

"The first is a thoroughly first-class road, with ample slopes and ditches, deep ballast, a 70 lbs. rail, thoroughly fish-jointed, and the ties preserved to last fifteen years. The second, or American line, has scanty earthwork, thin ballast, a 60 lbs. rail, with open joints, and the ties destined to decay in from five to seven years."

The consequence of this serious difference in the quality of construction, arising out of the primary mistake of employing inferior engineering skill, is a much greater cost of maintenance of way in United States as compared with European railways.

A GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER OF RACINE is still living it seems. She was in very humble circumstances, and at one time appeared likely to pass her days in a factory. The Society of Dramatic Authors has, however, come to her aid, and placed her in a convent.

THE PERSIAN GOVERNMENT has sent an order to Belgium for 20,000 muskets, 2,000 rifles of the model approved by the French Minister of War have been likewise ordered in Paris by the Persian Government.

A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS has moved a resolution thanking Captain Samuel Reid, for having designed and formed the present flag of the United States.

THE EMPEROR'S HOBBY.—A few days ago the Emperor was, it seems, closeted with a military engineer of high standing for an unusually long period. A discussion upon some contemplated improvement in the manufacture of weapons of war was the subject of conversation. At its termination the engineer quitted the imperial cabinet, and found in the ante-chamber M. Fould. "Why?" exclaimed the Minister in a great pet, "what a time you have been with his Majesty; I've been waiting for you to come out full two hours." "Que voulez-vous?" replied the other; his Majesty has been upon his cannons, and when this is the case he never knows when to get off. This explanation is said to have elicited a shrug from the gentleman to whom it was addressed, and the remark, "Oh! he's always on his cannons."

AN INCIDENT OF THE FRENCH WAR ON THE KAHLES.—Walsley, in his "Algeria," states that, in one of the French onslaughts, a Zouave dashed an earthen jar to pieces with the butt end of his musket, thinking that it contained food, and a child rolled out. He fastened it on his back with his turban, and dashed on in search of more plunder with his comrades. At the end of the day he was found lying on the ground dead. A bullet had passed through his head, but the poor baby was unharmed and fast asleep.

CONSTITUTION OF THE VICTORIA ASSEMBLY.—Of the 60 members who form the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, 20 are described as gentlemen, 10 merchants, 5 barristers, 4 solicitors, 3 squatters, 2 auctioneers, 2 surveyors, 2 physicians, 2 farmers, 1 editor, 1 wine merchant, 1 attorney-general, 1 president of the Board of Works, 1 Postmaster-General, 1 Treasurer, 1 Solicitor-General, 1 Chief Secretary, 1 newspaper proprietor, and 1 music-seller. The Speaker is described as a gentleman, and the Chairman of Committees as a barrister.

IRELAND.

THE CANADIAN MINISTERS ON TRIAL.—A remarkable and highly-interesting trial has taken place in Canada, the defendants being Ministers of the Crown. Two sessions ago a provincial statute was passed "to provide for the better independence of Parliament," which enacts that, if a Minister resigns office and within one month accepts another, "he shall not thereby vacate his seat." When the Macdonald Cabinet lately resigned, in consequence of an adverse vote on the seat of Government question, Mr. Brown and Mr. Doiron formed an Administration which lasted two days, and Mr. Macdonald, with most of his former colleagues, was restored to power, the Government General being of opinion that, in the circumstances of the province, he could not justifiably adopt the extreme measure of dissolving Parliament. The members of the Cartier-Macdonald Cabinet, to avoid an appeal to their constituents, exchanged offices, and each, after holding a few offices for a day, returned to his former position in the Government. By their political opponents this was regarded as a most discreditable manoeuvre, and consequently several separate actions for penalties were brought against the Ministers who had not vacated their seats. These actions have now been decided by the Canadian Courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas, and the learned judges have unanimously held that "the accused parties had kept strictly within the letter of the law, and were, therefore, not liable to any penalty for its infraction." The Chief-Justice of the Queen's Bench, Sir John Beverley Robinson; the Chief-Justice of the Common Pleas, Mr. Draper, and the other Judges, founded their opinion upon the language of the statute, which declared that "any person holding any of the offices named might resign his office, and if he did so within one month he should not thereby vacate his seat." The judgment has not satisfied the prosecuting parties, and they talk of appealing against it to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL JACOB.

THE Indian army has just lost a general, and the Indian service a hero. Brigadier John Jacob, the renowned commander of the Scinde Horse, has fallen a victim to fever. The professional distinctions of this able soldier were in themselves considerable, for, though he was comparatively young, and had never directed regular operations on an extensive scale, he had taken notable part in eventful campaigns, and had fought in great battles with memorable valour. His chief reputation, however, was earned in a more extraordinary capacity. He was endowed in an uncommon degree with those personal gifts which enable one man to exercise an ascendancy over thousands, and which, in all situations and all ages of the world, have constituted the material of heroes. With the single exception of Sir James Outram, he represented perhaps more vividly than any living soldier that natural and inherent superiority of power which, when expressed in the race instead of the individual, gives Englishmen the dominion over India. He never enjoyed any independent command of importance; indeed, his rank, which was brevet rank, would scarcely have qualified him for such position; but the vast extent of our Indian Empire yields unbounded fields of operation even for regimental officers, and in one of these Col. Jacob found opportunities for distinction which will long survive in Indian story.

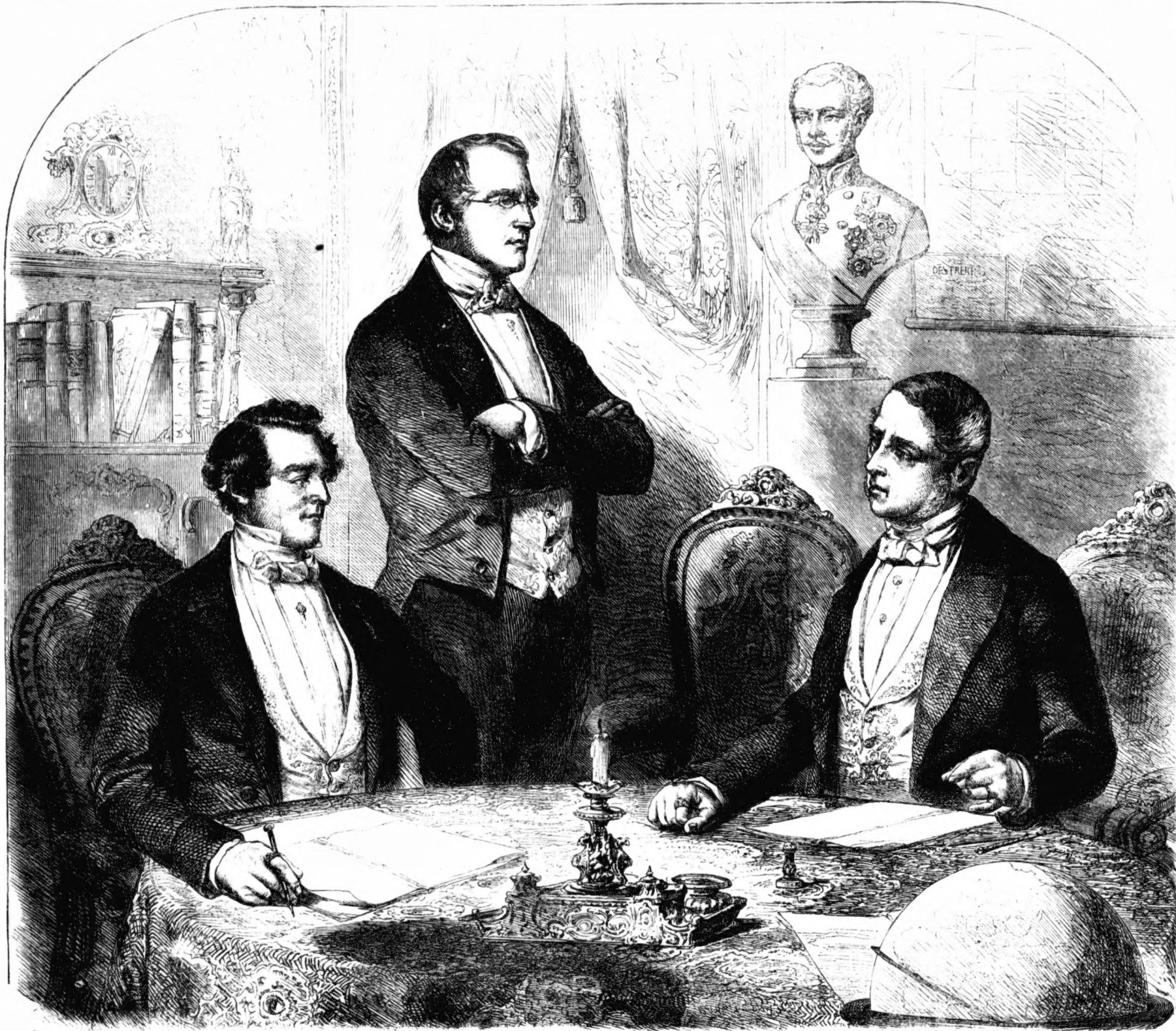
It is a noticeable, though by no means a singular circumstance, that this famous cavalry officer was not originally connected with that arm of the service. Like many, or indeed most, of our best Indian soldiers, who pass from the regular to the irregular branches of the army, he took to cavalry duty because that was the duty for which the irregular levies were best fitted. His first appointment was to the Bombay Artillery, which he entered in 1827, and with this corps, composed not of natives, but of Europeans, he passed his first seven years of service. At the expiration of this period he was intrusted with a small detached command, comprising a company of native artillery and a field battery; after which essay of his powers he proceeded, in the usual way of Indian promotion, to assume civil instead of military duties, and served for a short time in the provincial administration of Guzerat. From these employments, however, he was soon summoned by the outbreak of war, and he participated, as an artillery officer, in the perils and glories of the Afghan campaigns. He did not, however, accompany the expedition all the way to Cabul, for before the disastrous retreat from that city had been consummated, he received his appointment in the peculiar sphere of duty with which his name has since been inseparably connected.



BRIGADIER-GENERAL JACOB.

In the year 1839, just at the time when all North-western India was in a ferment, it was determined to raise some squadrons of irregular horse for service in those parts, and the idea had been so far developed that some 500 swarthy cavaliers stood enrolled in 1841 as the Scinde Horse. At this period, however, it was resolved that the regiment should be augmented; and Colonel Outram, with a sympathetic perception of Jacob's abilities, selected the young artillery lieutenant for the chief command. The campaigns and conquest of Scinde, which presently ensued, offered, of course, the most admirable opportunities for further distinction; and on the field of Meeanee Jacob's Horse and Jacob himself established a name which was never afterwards sullied or obscured. At Hyderabad and Shabdadpoor they behaved with equal gallantry. At the latter place, Captain Jacob, with a force of about 800 men of all arms, attacked the army of Shar Mahomed, consisting of from 8,000 to 10,000 men, and utterly defeated and dispersed it.

After Scinde had been annexed to the British territories it became necessary to protect it as a frontier province with efficient and organised garrisons, and in these duties a prominent part was assigned to the Scinde Horse. Owing partly to the anomalous character of the territorial government, and partly (no doubt) to the confidence reposed in Jacob's personal abilities, the Scinde Horse were left almost entirely to themselves, and the regiment was constituted and commanded as its colonel thought proper, without much interference from other authorities. The results soon became most remarkable. From a few troops the force was gradually expanded till it included two strong regiments, and mustered 1,600 of the best horsemen in India. To these soldiers was entrusted, for leagues together, the patrol of the frontier, and, though they were thus divided into inconsiderable detachments, sometimes of less than fifty men each, their vigilance, fidelity, and intelligence, were such as to insure the perfect protection of the province. All this while there was but one commander of the whole. Whether as Major, or Colonel, or Brigadier, Jacob was still the sole head of this formidable body, nor had he more than four officers under him for the discharge of the entire duty. He was the commandant of both regiments together, and was assisted simply by two lieutenants in each. Five Europeans thus controlled nearly 2,000 of the fiercest swordsmen of the East, and with such absolute effect, that it was said not a trooper in the corps knew any will but that of his colonel. Their discipline was perfection itself; their devotion unquestioned; their loyalty never impeached. Here, it was urged, was our problem solved for us—the best facilities



DR. BACH, MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

HERR VON BRUCK, FINANCE MINISTER.

THE AUSTRIAN MINISTERS.

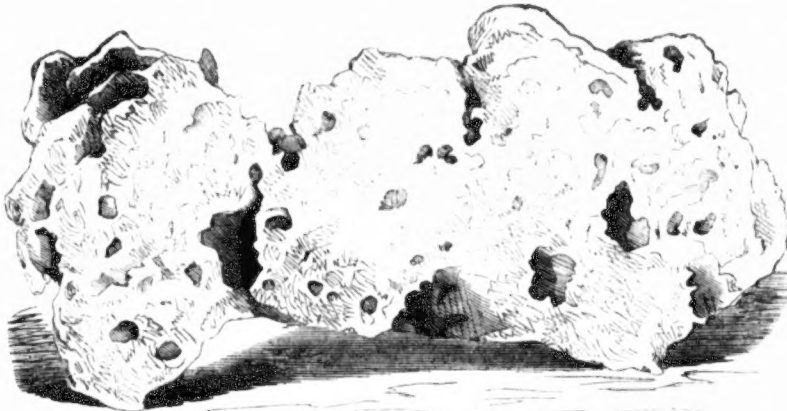
COUNT BUOL, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

of Asiatics developed and encouraged in our service—the very prejudices of their birth surrendered in the confidence of their hearts—and all this performed by the personal ascendancy of an Englishman. What could we want more, or how could we ever do better?

This, in fact, was the ground on which Jacob took his stand. By his precepts no less than his example he laboured to enforce upon our Indian Administration the doctrines which he professed. His theory was, that Europeans were naturally superior to Asiatics, and that Asiatics, so far from resenting such ascendancy, desired nothing better than to profit by it. All they wanted was to obey, provided only that their obedience was challenged by one clearly competent to demand it. Avail yourself, said he, of the advantage which nature gives you. Send good Europeans to India, and sift them well when they get there. Place no man in command unless he is qualified to impress and govern by proofs of personal excellence, and, when you have got such a man, leave those whom he is to govern with no idea of any authority but his. Instead of teaching natives to look up to some central and remote jurisdiction, give them their plain and visible lord in their commanding officer, and in him only. Instead of diluting the magical influence of race by multiplying European officers, and thus exhibiting inferior specimens of the dominant class, concentrate power and effect by making these rulers rare and absolute. Facilitate their work by giving them every species of personal authority under definite instructions; teach the native soldier to look up to a man ever present with him, in whom he can recognise a natural expression of that Government which otherwise he can only dimly understand, and then you may save nine-tenths of your officers and rely implicitly upon the devotion of your troops.

These opinions, to which we have here given a general expression, Colonel Jacob promulgated not only after the recent mutinies, in which he discerned a confirmation of his views, but long before those fearful convulsions were ever anticipated. In 1851, he published some "Remarks on the Bengal Army," which brought down on him the frowns of his military superiors, but the truth of which has since been painfully demonstrated. It is obvious to remark that, though the Scinde Horse did certainly not mutiny, they were not exposed to the severity of temptation which proved so fatal to others, and that even if their discipline could have carried them through this ordeal, the marvellous abilities of their commander were of a character too unique to be expected in every branch of a system. It is not generally known that his redoubtable soldiers, who, in a province where they were almost masters, did preserve their allegiance unbroken through a whole year of treason, were of the very same stamp and stuff as our own rotten sepoy battalions. They were not raised on the frontier from Pathans or Beloochees, but were pure Hindostances, with a few recruits of similar character from the Deccan. Jacob's raw material was exactly that of the Bengal and Bombay armies, and approximated, indeed, more nearly to the former model than the latter. When we reflect that from this material—since thought so essentially worthless—Colonel Jacob did actually construct and maintain a body of the finest, and, as far as we can tell, the most faithful horsemen in the world, we shall obtain some idea of his extraordinary powers, and be able to appreciate the loss now sustained in one of the best representatives of England's ascendancy in the East.

We must not pass over the efforts which Brigadier Jacob made to improve the equipment of the Indian army. He spent much time and money in various experiments, and is said to have expended powder and lead by the ton in testing the value of various kinds of rifled fire-



THE "WELCOME" GOLD NUGGET, WEIGHING 2,217 OUNCES.

arms. He succeeded at last in perfecting a description of rifle and rifle-bullet, which appears to be as much superior to the Minié, in range and efficiency, as that weapon is to the old musket; his percussion rifle-shells form a new feature in modern warfare, since they have been proved effective at the distance of upwards of a mile.

Brigadier-General Jacob died at the age of forty-six, or more nearly forty-seven. He was born at Woolavington, near Bridgewater, in January, 1812; and was educated by his father, the Rev. S. Jacob, up to the period when he entered the college at Addiscombe. In the earlier part of his career in India, he was noted as a sportsman, and a dashing, skilful rider. In person General Jacob was rather above the middle stature, spare and muscular.

It will be seen that we have sometimes styled Jacob colonel, sometimes brigadier-general. In the year 1857 he was appointed aide-de-camp to her Majesty, with the rank of colonel in the army. Previous to this, he had accompanied the expedition to Persia, as commander of the Cavalry Division, with the rank of brigadier-general. On the termination of hostilities, he remained with a part of the army at Bushire, after the departure of General Sir James Outram. When Bushire was finally evacuated, Jacob embarked for India, resumed his old post, and died at Jacobabad, on the 5th of December.

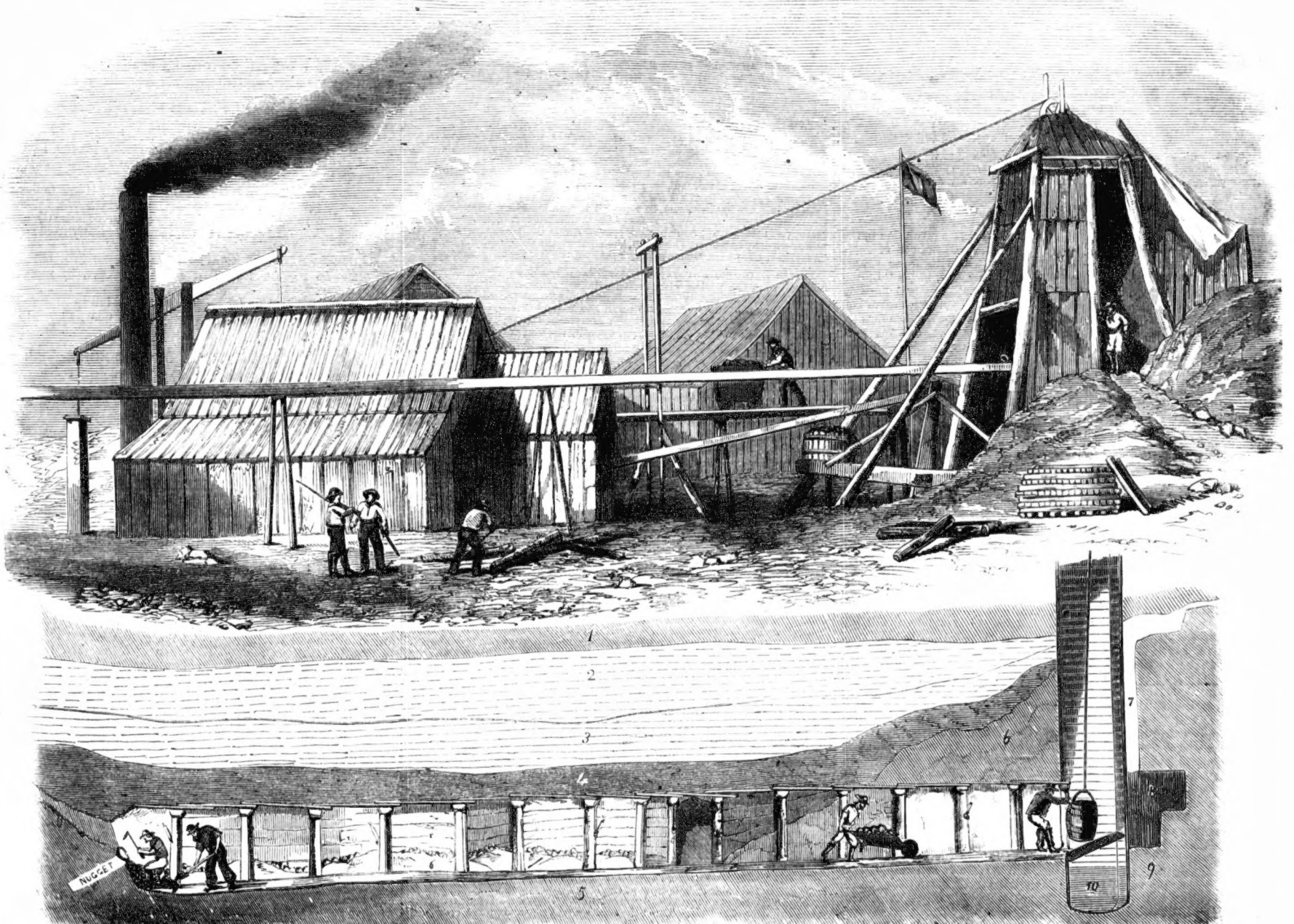
THE AUSTRIAN MINISTERS.

At this moment the Austrian Government have to play a leading and responsible part in the politics of Europe. Upon the course they may pursue with regard to Servia and Italy, and to the threatening attitude of France and Sardinia, greatly depends the peace of all Europe; and every telegram from Vienna is watched with nervous interest. This Government of Austria, on which so much depends, is mainly seated in three heads, which we engrave on the preceding page.

Count Buol-Schauenstein, Chief Minister of Austria, with the titles of Minister of the Imperial House, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and President of the Council of Ministers, was born in 1797. Count Buol, whose name has become familiar in England through his participation in the negotiations connected with the affairs of the East, is the son of

an Austrian diplomatist, who filled some important posts before the dissolution of the German Empire, and was subsequently plenipotentiary of Austria at the Frankfort Diet. He was subsequently Austrian Minister in Switzerland, in which country, in the canton of the Grisons, Count Buol was born. The present minister represented his sovereign at the court of Turin in 1847, during the revival of the national feeling which led to the Italian war of 1848. He had not long been Ambassador at the court of St. James's, when, in April, 1852, he was summoned in haste to Vienna, upon the sudden death of Prince Schwarzenberg, and at once appointed to the offices which he at present holds. Although M. de Buol is not, like his distinguished colleagues, Dr. Alexander Bach and Baron Bruck, one of those new men by whom Prince Schwarzenberg sought to regenerate the Austrian monarchy, he is believed to inherit the views of that able minister, by whom he was also often recommended to his sovereign. The internal policy of M. de Buol has been to cultivate the good will of the middle classes by administrative reforms; to keep in check the influence and abate the power of the aristocracy; to centralise the administration of the extensive and heterogeneous monarchy; and during the dangers of this transitional state, to rely on an army raised to unusual strength. The foreign policy of Count Buol has been directed to the emancipation of his country from the tutelage of the Czar, the substitution of Austria for Russia as protector of Moldo-Wallachia, and to securing the freedom of the navigation of the Danube, on which depends the extension of German commerce in the East. In February, 1852, the Emperor Nicholas boasted to Sir Hamilton Seymour that he had no concern on account of Austria's opinion as to his policy in the East. In April, 1854, the head of the Austrian Cabinet signed a protocol pledging the four great Powers of Europe to procure the evacuation of the principalities of the Danube which Russia had invaded, and to maintain the territorial entirety of Turkey. A powerful military demonstration by Austria caused the Czar to announce, a few months later, that he withdrew his troops from Moldo-Wallachia "for strategical reasons." In December, 1854, Buol signed a treaty of alliance with England and France, and immediately thereupon the four guarantees demanded by the allies were in principle conceded by Russia. Since the peace, Austria has not stood so high among the Powers of Europe as at the opening of the Vienna Congress of 1855, nor has any Austrian emperor ruled more absolutely in his own dominions than the Emperor Francis-Joseph. In 1856 Count Buol, as Austrian plenipotentiary, took part in the Peace Conference held at Paris.

Charles-Louis, Baron Von Bruck, was born October 18, 1798, in the duchy of Berg, on the Rhine. The early youth of Bruck was spent in the army of his country. He made the campaign of 1814-15 in the Prussian service; and on the restoration of peace visited London, to seek a position in the army of the Hon. East India Company, but was not successful. In the year 1821, weary of the monotony of garrison life, he set out for the south of Europe, intending to join the Greek insurgents, subjects of the Sultan. Before he could perfect the arrangements for his departure he received intelligence from Greece, which convinced him of the hopelessness of his projected journey. While uncertain as to his future course of life, overtures were made to him by Trieste merchants, who had remarked the energy and practical turn of his character. He resolved to accept the appointment of Secretary of the Trieste "Azienda Assicuratrice," a Maritime Assurance Company. The Assurance Company failed, and it was Bruck's business to liquidate



THE RED HILL MINING COMPANY'S CLAIM, BAKERY HILL, BALIARAT.

its affairs. The skill with which he accomplished this task so increased his reputation, that when, in 1830, he came forward with a plan of fusing all the small Maritime Assurance Societies of Trieste, and consolidating them into one powerful association, he found the commercial community prepared to receive his proposition with a readiness that revealed the extent of the reputation which, in a short time, he had acquired. In 1833 he saw his scheme in operation. This important association, which was first announced as the Trieste Lloyds, but has long been known as the Austrian Lloyds, originally confined itself to the business of maritime insurance, like our own great society of underwriters, from which it borrowed its name. At the end of the year 1846, even before Bruck resigned the active direction of the Lloyds, the company had a capital of 3,000,000 florins, and a surplus income, available for dividends, of 198,000 florins. It has contributed immensely to augment Austrian influence in the East; it has trebled the population of Trieste, and caused it to become an important centre of Mediterranean trade; it has made possible the existence of an Austrian navy; and it has done this, doubtless under the smile, but without the aid of a government. The year 1848 saw Bruck called to a new and more prominent scene of activity. The grave occurrences which at that period shook the foundations of every state in Germany are well known. The Vienna cabinet saw that it was necessary to introduce new, courageous, and practical men to the service of the state, and as such Bruck, who, in his character of member of the Bourse Committee, had long been in intercourse with the Government, was recognised and employed. He was nominated Minister of Trade, and a member of the Committee for elaborating the Austrian Constitution of March, 1849, since abandoned. The Committee had scarcely completed its work, when Bruck was selected to negotiate with Sardinia. He concluded such a peace as Sardinia could observe without degradation; and he, at the same time, improved the opportunity to adjust a frontier question, and some fiscal difficulties connected with the wine and salt trade, which a more accomplished negotiator might have thought beneath his notice or unworthy of the occasion. Upon his return from Italy he devoted himself to the Ministry of Trade, a department new to the state system of Austria, and which he had to organise from its elements. He set resolutely to work. He established a statistical bureau, and introduced a system of monthly returns; reformed chambers of commerce; concluded postal treaties; multiplied post-offices throughout the monarchy; gave an extension of one thousand miles to the electric telegraph; and crowned his work by abolishing the interior customs line, which had separated the kingdom of Hungary from Austria, and by a revision of the Imperial tariff. He would have gone further in the work of reform, but every step he took was against the passive resistance of a jealous bureaucracy, and the active opposition of a half-enlightened commercial community attached to the prohibitive system. Within the cabinet he had his opponents, whom, even with the powerful aid of Prince Schwarzenberg, his firm friend, he could not always overcome. His opinions brought him into collision with the Finance Minister, and in May, 1851, he resigned, receiving the dignity of a Baron of the Austrian Empire. But in 1853, he was appointed to the most important post to which an Austrian diplomatist could be called—he was nominated Internuncio at Constantinople. His work was, first, to restore those earlier friendly relations of Austria with the Porte, which had been so rudely displaced by Count Leiningen on special mission from Vienna, and afterwards to maintain the influence of Austria against that of Russia, France, and England. Whatever opinion may be formed of the policy of the Austrian cabinet, there can be no doubt that it was faithfully represented at Constantinople by Baron Bruck. From the departure of Prince Menschikoff from Constantinople (May 18) to the day of his recall, he was the appointed protector of the Czar's subjects in Turkey, and at the same time one of the chief foreign advisers of the Porte. His efforts were always directed to the maintenance or the restoration of peace. Thus he opposed the declaration of war by the Sultan in 1853, advised the acceptance of the Vienna note, and opposed, as far as he could, the original passage of the British fleet through the Dardanelles. The act with which his name is most permanently identified, is the Convention of June, 1854, by which Austria gained a splendid military position on the Danube as far as the Pruth, without incurring any further obligations than that of defending the same. At the commencement of 1855 Bruck was recalled to Vienna, to take charge of the Ministry of Finance, vacant by the resignation of Herr von Baumgarten.

Dr. Alexander Bach, Minister of the Interior, is, like Baron Bruck, one of those "new men" who were introduced into the Government of the Emperor Francis-Joseph by Prince Schwarzenberg; and in concert with Baron Bruck he has carried out a series of fiscal and commercial reforms, which have made him very popular among the middle classes. He is regarded with great confidence in Austria. We have to add that these particulars are gathered from "Men of the Time."

MINING IN AUSTRALIA.

THE illustrations we this week publish will create a revolution in the minds of many of our readers, whose preconceived notions of gold-seeking in Australia may have been associated with those simple machines, a pick, a pan, and a cradle. Mr. Kelly says, in his "Life in Victoria":—"Coming in amongst the diggers, nothing could possibly be more unlike in external appearance than that of the Californian and the Ballaratian. There was an air of comely chivalry about the former, bearded like a pard, with his steely-crowned sombrero, and his wide coloured flannel shirt, girted in above the hips with a red sash, that was stuck round with knives, daggers, and revolvers; while the latter, in the commonplace garb of an ordinary navvie, without any more attractive-looking weapon than his tobacco-knife, worked like a horse, above and below ground, by night and by day, in a panoply of mud, as if he took minute baths in a solution of yellow-ochre. Although I thought I had derived a tolerably accurate notion of digging operations from oral description, I was wholly unprepared for the reality, and, as I stood on the platform, and peered down the clean, straight, dry shafts, rounded and perpendicular as the tunnel of a steamer, I almost fancied that Victorian digging was a special trade, followed out by strict mathematical rules, and I had very little difficulty in making up my mind, from the specimen then before me, that Ballarat at least was no field for the amateur or 'prentice diggers." Mr. Kelly then gives a description of the construction of the shaft from the surface:—"In the deep, wet holes slabbing is always indispensable to prevent their falling in and smothering the workmen. Slabbed holes are generally four feet by two feet ten inches; and, as they could not be well or securely slabbed downwards from the surface, the digger first sinks nine feet, and slabs upwards, and so continues proceeding in spells of nine feet all the way down. Arrived at the bottom, the digger plants his strong uprights firmly, to answer as door-posts to the drive, and, having secured them well, the slabs covering the space are removed, and a strong lintel, at least four inches thick, is placed overhead, and stoutly fixed; thus is erected the doorway to the drive. As the drive is excavated, straight-edged slabs are inserted over the lintel, and placed longitudinally overhead to serve as a shield, being supported at the other end by strong posts called 'tailors,' and so they are continued in lengths until the extremity of the claim is reached. All the dirt is hoisted to the surface in buckets, by machinery, and should there be any washing dirt met with, it is thrown in a heap by itself. In some cases the sides of the drives require slabbing, from the rottenness of the ground, which operation is performed by placing on each side upright slabs, with the top ends inserted inside the horizontal ones and the lower ends in a groove or gutter cut in the bottom. At the bottom of the shaft a well, proportioned to the leakage, is sunk in the rock, to keep the floor of the drives drained. This well is completely emptied out just previous to the dinner spell, and contains the leakage of that period without overflow. There were a few cases of suffocation from foul air during my visit; but although the air or damp extinguishes life, unlike that in the coal mines it is not sufficiently impregnated with hydrogen to light or explode.

"Its presence is first indicated by a languor in the candle-flame, then

a difficulty of respiration; but as it increases, the candle is only saved from extinguishment by being held—strange as it may seem—in nearly an inverted position, when the circumambient air commences spitting, almost like damp powder, and the lungs are affected precisely as they would be after a long and sharp race."

It was in a mine of this description, at the Bakery Hill, Ballarat, that the largest nugget yet found was turned up by the fortunate diggers. Our engraving is from a drawing forwarded to us from Australia, and gives a faithful illustration of the "Red Hill Mining Company's Claim," with a sectional view, showing the spot where the auriferous mass, weighing 2,217 ozs., was found. The numbers indicate the strata through which the shaft is sunk. They are as follows:—1, clay; 2, drift; 3, alluvial deposits; 4, black clay; 5, red rock; 6, line of reefs or red rock; 7, shaft 180 feet deep; 8, old drive; 9, rock; 10, well.

SHOCKING MURDER IN DUBLIN.

A MURDER arising from some domestic quarrel (a comparatively rare crime in Ireland), has occurred in Dublin. The reports in the Dublin papers are very confused and imperfect. The person murdered was a woman named Margaret Black, aged thirty, and her murderer was her husband, Thomas Black, aged forty, who is a house painter. They lived in Dean-street, in the Liberty. It appears that the deceased had been married to Thomas Black for a period of eleven years, during which time he had quarrelled with her frequently when tipsy, as he was somewhat jealous, but, when sober, was kind and affectionate. About eight o'clock on Saturday night last he went home as usual, and, shortly afterwards, took out the deceased on a car. They made some purchases, drank "rather freely" at a public house, and returned home at about nine o'clock. About eleven o'clock, a sister of the deceased, a Mrs. Quinn, who lived on the same landing as the Blacks, came home. When she entered her own room she found the son of the deceased, a lad about nine years old, in her room. He said he was turned out of his mother's room by his father, who threatened to kill him if he attempted to return. Mrs. Quinn asked no more questions, lest she should raise a disturbance; but before going to bed, she went into her sister's room, and there she saw Thomas Black standing by the bed-side, having only his shirt on, and his wife, with some of her clothes removed, lying on the bed. She went over and laid her hand on the deceased, and observed that she was rather cold, but she says she did not suspect that anything was wrong. She returned to her own room, and kept the little boy with her all night. Next morning being Sunday, they remained in bed later than usual, and did not breakfast until about half-past ten o'clock. At eleven o'clock Mrs. Quinn had occasion to go out, and she sent the child into his father's room to borrow for her a cloak. On going to the door he found it partly closed, and when he pushed it open he saw blood about the bed where his mother was lying; his father was gone. An alarm was raised, but to no purpose; it was evident life had been extinct for some hours. The woman had received a deep wound under the ribs on the left side, from which blood had flowed profusely. Under her chin were two black marks, as if the murderer had placed his thumbs there to keep the unfortunate woman from screaming, and on her right temple there was a slight scar; her clothes were greatly torn, as if she had struggled violently. It would appear altogether, that after inflicting the wound, the murderer had held his victim in one position, with his hands at her throat and over her mouth, till she had died from loss of blood. The husband was observed to leave the house about nine o'clock on Sunday morning, with his boots polished, and a coat or jacket under his arm; he crossed the street to a barber's shop and got himself shaved, and while there coolly smoked his pipe and conversed most freely on different topics. He remarked to the barber, before getting shaved, that he had been in a house on the previous night where he had forgotten his coat, and that he went early to look for it, as he was afraid it might be gone, but that he was fortunate enough to get it. After leaving this shop he was observed to walk down New Row, and no more was heard of him till Tuesday morning, when he surrendered himself.

ANOTHER REFORM.—It is the intention of Sir John Pakington, in distributing to distinguished naval officers the few rewards of meritorious conduct which are at the disposal of the First Lord of the Admiralty, to divide them as equally and fairly as possible among the most deserving officers; and not hereafter to give good service pensions to the superintendents of dock or victualling yards, or officers holding other profitable appointments, during the time of their holding such positions.

THE REV. MR. PUGH AND THE ST. PANCRAZ GUARDIANS.—The Rev. Thomas Pugh was lately dismissed from his office of chaplain to the St. Pancras workhouse for having refused to divulge the address of the late assistant surgeon, the same having been communicated to him in his capacity as a minister of religion, as a professional and privileged communication. He appealed to the Poor Law Commissioners to institute an official inquiry into his conduct, and to reinstall him in his office. The Board of Guardians, however, deny the right of the Commissioners to interfere in the matter, as they are appointed under special Act of Parliament. The Board also denied, upon a recent occasion, the right of the Commissioners to send an auditor, but as the Commissioners insisted the Guardians gave way.

PUBLIC DRINKING FOUNTAINS.—Marylebone has accepted Mr. Gurney's offer to endow the parish with twelve drinking fountains. They are to be maintained in perpetuity at his cost, and lighted at the expense of the parish. The first four will be set up in the Regent Circus, Oxford Street; Edgeware Road, opposite Chapel Street; Marylebone Road, Trinity Church; and at the end of Upper Baker Street, opposite the Clarence Gate.

THE BOMBAY TRANSPORT.—At the instance of Captain Flamank, of the transport ship Bombay, which recently returned to Portsmouth in distress, a court-martial has sat to inquire into certain charges against Captain Steel, 17th Lancers, who was in military command of the troops on board. The inquiry appears to have created quite a sensation among the men, who addressed the Court in a memorial, which expresses in strong terms their entire approbation of Captain Steel's conduct while in command of them at sea.

THE CHANNEL SQUADRON RE-INFORCED.—It is rumoured that the Government contemplate making a considerable augmentation in the Channel squadron by the addition of twelve sail of the line. Great activity prevails at all the dockyards; and during the present year several first-class screw steamers will be launched at Portsmouth, Chatham, Devonport, and Pembroke; when other line-of-battle ships are to be immediately laid down on the same ships.

DISASTERS AT SEA.—The Lord Panmure, screw store steamer, in ballast, was run down by the screw-collier, Derwent, some miles below the Nore on Saturday. The Lord Panmure sank; her crew got away. On the same day the brig Sea-Drift, with coals, was run down and sunk by the Great Northern screw-steamer, in Sea Reach. The Great Northern was herself so much damaged that she had to be run ashore to prevent her from foundering. The third collision we have to record occurred off Greenwich, where the screw-steamer Auguste-Louise was sunk by the screw-steamer Emerald. The crew was saved. The Earl of Cathness steamer ran ashore in Aberdeen bay; there was a heavy sea on, and she was much damaged. The brigantine Minnie Hartley, of Cork, sailed from Archangel on the 2nd of October last, and had favourable weather until she rounded the North Cape. After a few days of unsettled weather, they encountered a succession of gales, the vessel being driven about by cross currents in all directions. The gales continued twenty-eight or twenty-nine days; they worked the ship to the southward the best way they could, the sails were all damaged, and were repaired over and over again; the topsails were shifted more than once. The master and crew were quite ignorant of where they were, having lost latitude. Some days afterwards they sighted Flam-borough Head, and put into Middlesbrough for provisions and fresh water; they got provisions, but no water, and set sail again. For thirty-five days they were knocking about the North Sea, during which the master became seriously ill. He gave charge to the mate, Daniel Leary, who soon afterwards became disabled from want of food and water; after which the ship was managed by Henry Desmond, seaman, and the rest of the crew, three in number. On Christmas-day the mate died from starvation, and at noon on the 28th the ship was to be near the Butt of the Lewis. The captain was alive in his berth but insensible. They hoisted a flag of distress, which was perceived and they were taken from the ship exhausted and helpless. The master died on the following day, the 29th. The mate was left dead in the cabin. The crew of the brig Triumph, of Limerick, passed through privations almost equally great before they were rescued by the American ship Cordelia. The brig was water-logged, and the crew had been for nine days exposed in the rigging, almost without food and water.

PROMISES OF THE NEXT SESSION.

THE notices of motion for next session include the usual "good intentions" of independent members.

Sir Arthur Elton will move a series of resolutions affirming that the House, considering the law of church rates to be productive of frequent strife and litigation, deems it advisable to prohibit the levying of church rates, and to confide the maintenance of the fabric of the church to the zeal and liberality of the clergy and laity, and that in order to afford every facility for the free exercise of that zeal and liberality, it is expedient that in every parish the incumbent and churchwardens shall form a corporation, with power, notwithstanding the mortmain laws, to hold property granted or bequeathed for the purpose of providing for the maintenance of the parish church. The hon. baronet will suggest that the authority of the present vestry in every parish, with reference to the parish church, shall be transferred to a new vestry to be termed the church vestry, the present vestry retaining its authority in secular matters, and that churchwardens should be chosen exclusively from members of the church vestry.

Mr. Wilson, the Secretary to the Treasury under Lord Palmerston's Administration, will move for a select committee to inquire into the state of the funded and unfunded debt, and of the public income and expenditure, with the view of devising the best means of discharging in times of peace the obligations contracted during times of war, and of securing the greatest economy consistent with efficiency in the public service.

Mr. Warren will submit resolutions expressive of the opinion of the House as to the principles on which the Queen's government in India should henceforth be conducted, with reference to the promotion of education and the adoption of such measures as could safely be brought into action with a view of extending Christianity.

Mr. H. Berkeley intends on an early day giving notice of a motion affirming the necessity of the ballot in the election of the members of Parliament.

Mr. Laurie will move for leave to bring in a bill to extend the corporation of London, with its ancient rights and privileges, to a radius of not less than two miles from St. Paul's Cathedral.

Mr. Scholefield will move for a select committee to examine and report upon the accounts of the several departments of government for the preceding financial year.

Mr. Tite will move for a select committee to inquire into the operation of the laws relating to the care and treatment of lunatics, especially those so proved by inquisition.

Lord Adolphus Vane Tempest will move for a select committee to inquire into the present system of secondary punishments, and into the existing management of convict prisons, with a view to discover whether a more efficient system of punishment cannot be arrived at, which shall be, at the same time, more deterrent to crime, more reformatory in its operation, and more economical to the country, by utilising the labour of all prisoners undergoing sentences for serious offences.

Mr. John Fitzgerald will move for leave to bring in a bill for the relief of her Majesty's subjects professing the Roman Catholic religion.

Sir De Lacy Evans will draw the attention of the House to the report of the Royal Commission on the sale and purchase of commissions in the army, and will submit a resolution with a view to the abolition of that system. The gallant gentleman also proposes to call the attention of the House to the inexpediency of continuing the double system of administration at present existing in our South African dependencies, the chief portion of the territory being administered by the Governor and Colonial Parliament, and the district of Kaffraria by the High Commissioner under direction exclusively of the Secretary of State.

Mr. Thomas Duncombe will move for leave to bring in a bill to transfer the freehold of the parish church from the clergy to the representatives of the parish, in order to render the same available to the ratepayers generally.

Mr. Blake will move for a select committee to inquire into the management of the Department of Science and Art—particularly as to whether the funds annually voted by Parliament are judiciously expended for promoting a taste and knowledge of science and art throughout the United Kingdom, and also whether the plan adopted by the department is the best for the advancement of those objects. The same Honourable Member will move for a select committee to inquire into the working of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland.

Mr. Crawford will call the attention of the House to the practical working of the Merchant Shipping Law Amendment Act of 1853, with the view to the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the same.

Mr. Dillwyn will move for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law respecting endowed schools.

Colonel Freeston will move that a humble address be presented to her Majesty praying that she will be graciously pleased to take into consideration the unfavourable position of the subalterns of the army, with a view of affording relief.

Viscount Ingestre will call the attention of the House to the present condition of the yeomanry cavalry of Great Britain, and will move for leave to bring in a bill to exempt (under certain conditions) non-commissioned officers and privates in the yeomanry cavalry from serving on juries.

Mr. Donald Nicoll will move for leave to bring in a bill to amend the drafts on the Bankers' Law Amendment Act, by repealing the fourth clause.

Mr. Warren will move for leave to bring in a bill to improve the administration of criminal justice in the courts of quarter sessions.

OPINIONS OF THE OXFORD MEMBERS.

THE annual feast of "the Druids" at Oxford gives the members for that city a limited opportunity of talking to the Druidical section of their constituents on public affairs—limited, because by the rules they are restricted to the "druidical circle." This year the dinner was given in the Town Hall; and the leading citizens of the city were present. Mr. Langston, as senior member, oratorically took the lead. Having contrasted our brighter commercial prospects with the gloomy outlook of 1857-58, he passed to the Reform question. He hinted at a £10 franchise in counties; the disfranchisement of small constituencies, and the enfranchisement of larger boroughs; and expressed disapproval of Lord John Russell's proposal to augment the constituencies of small boroughs by additions of country voters.

Mr. Cardwell was of opinion that we should no longer talk about Reform, without doing something satisfactory. No better time could be chosen for this work than the present time, when the country is not excited, nor indifferent, but prepared carefully and rationally to discuss and adopt honest and judicious proposals on the subject of Reform. Any measure to be useful must be comprehensive, and sincerely designed to benefit the community. One test of sincerity will be this: are education and intelligence to be the ground of the franchise? A further test will be the re-distribution of seats. Mr. Cardwell was very guarded in his expressions, and only referred in very general terms to the details of any reform bill. Another topic he handled was our national defences.

"I have had the honour of being associated with a number of distinguished men in a commission which has been sitting during the autumn for the purpose of investigating this subject. It has occupied a great deal of my time, and no subject has been more nearly pressed on my interest and attention. With regard to the foreign policy of this country, I would express what I think ought to be that policy. In ancient times the sword manufacturers of Spain were wont to engrave upon their sabres, 'Do not draw me without reason: do not sheath me without honour.' I participate not at all in any feelings of alarm, if feelings of alarm have been excited by any of the observations that have been made. I believe the strength of this country can scarcely be exaggerated; all that remains, I think, is that that strength should be judiciously and carefully employed. A child with a deadly instrument may overcome a giant who is careless of his fence. The great Lord Othman delivered his opinion on what he called 'a magnanimous fear,' which he said was the fear that the naval resources of this country should fall below and become inadequate to the demands and honour of the country. . . . I believe the world has never seen the spectacle which England would exhibit if any nation in the world, presuming on our powerlessness, thought fit to venture to insult us."

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1859.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTES.

We suspect that both the friends and the enemies of these establishments were astonished, when they heard the other day that the very earliest of them all had saddled Lord Brougham with a debt of more than three thousand pounds. It was a curiously abrupt revolution of the completeness with which a scheme, ushered in amidst the highest hopes, may break down. Some thirty years ago, the education movement took a start which astonished England. These Institutes, the London University, and the cheap journals, all rose about the same time. The "march of intellect" became our favourite watch-word; the "schoolmaster is abroad" was repeated from mouth to mouth; and the favourite motto for a pamphlet was "Knowledge is power." That an immense effect was produced on the country by the results of this zeal is unquestionable. But it is singular how much failure has attached to it, after all. It has once or twice come in our way to speak of the struggles of the books of Charles Knight; the returns of the "Athenaeums," &c., throughout the country, indicate far too much "light reading," and here we have the great founder of the movement—"creditor to the nation by education promoted largely, and debtor to somebody in the cause three thousand five hundred pounds." That a man like Lord Brougham should be allowed to pay in such a cause would be shabby indeed; but assuming this to be impossible, it is worth while to inquire why Mechanics' Institutes in general do not succeed better.

The first thing one sees to be clear in the matter is, that they fail as regards the class for whom they were designed. The kind of success they do meet, when successful, is not among those who are called *par excellence* "working men." It is among those who are of the same stock, so to speak, but of a variety of the stock—as clerks, apprentices, tradespeople—what social classifiers call the "lower middle class." There is something particularly disagreeable in the numerous subdivisions of modern life; but there they are, and they have their consequences. Let a man once take to a tail-coat (which is something answering, so to speak, to the coat of arms of other days), and by some subtle association, he begins to divide himself in sympathy from the fustian or flannel-jacketed man who is, after all, his cousin. This last—in whose position is something more favourable to independence than there is in the life of the other man—does not feel at home with him. They don't talk together, or read together; and so by degrees the working-men keep away, and give up the field. Of course, there are cases of working-men sticking to a place where there is a library, for the sake of the books. But this does not happen generally. The sturdy student of Newton's "Principia" is rare. Then, those who do attend take somehow to "light literature" only—a most delightful compound, answering to confectionery in the dining world, but not very wholesome to live upon. And so the "Institute" struggles on, unable to furnish high-class culture by narrowness of means, and gradually perishing of inanition.

Except, then, as places of amusement and lounging, the "Institutes" threaten to disappear, and the era when "everybody is to read Bacon" seems hopelessly remote. What is strange, too, they have just shown a tendency the very opposite of that with which their founders established them, the tendency of last generation being utilitarian, and the kind of reading now preferred being ornamental and imaginative! Is this partly mere *re-actio*, such as has been seen in so many departments of thought lately? or was there a fundamental error at first in the belief that education would take a mighty development by any such means? We incline to attach some importance to both suppositions; nor have we seen suggested a feasible plan for putting the Institutes in a position to carry out their original design on any great scale. We can only regret their imperfect success, and hope that newer schemes, such as that of the Working-men's College, may be more fruitful, but a working-man's college demands a degree of private zeal, and we may add of social opportunity, not found very abundantly anywhere; and it will be long, indeed, before such establishments become numerous.

The result, on the whole, ought to stimulate our own class, the journalists, to a fuller sense of its responsibilities. If the drama is injured by light literature, so surely the Institutes must be by cheapness of journals, for many prefer immensely a paper that they can buy to the opportunity of reading papers or even books in a general company. We are unwilling to magnify our office at anybody's expense, but if there be such a turn in the feeling of the masses, we say unhesitatingly that it ought to be recognised. If journals are preferred by the people to lectures, and read-

ing at home to reading in a public room, the law ought to do nothing to make journals compulsorily dear. The failure of the Birkbeck is another reason for abolishing the Paper Duty. It is another reason for casting about in every way for the means of spreading the knowledge which people decline to take in the form offered by Mechanics' Institutes. After all, if Institutes fail, reading increases; men may decline to go and read in unsympathetic companies, and yet be anxious to read in their own place and way. On that ground the newspaper meets them, and has some claim on the consideration of those who are puzzled what to do when they hear of institutes failing. The way in this and in other difficulties is to make the best of a bad bargain; to recognise that this is only a failure in one direction, and that education is seeking its advancement in other channels.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

PARLIAMENT STANDS PROROGUED to the 3rd of February.

THE ACCOUCHMENT OF THE PRINCESS FREDERICK-WILLIAM, is expected from day to day. The accoucheur of Queen Victoria and an English nurse are on their way to Berlin.

A WORKMAN IN THE DOWLAT WORKS died last week from the effects of being bitten by a cat in a rabid state. Six other persons were bitten by the furious animal, which has been destroyed.

BRITISH SUBJECTS resident or trading in the Russian Empire are now entitled to enjoy all the immunities which are granted to French, Greek, Belgian, and Dutch subjects.

SIR W. M. E. MILLNER, BART., and CAPTAIN MARSHAM sustained fractures of the ribs lately whilst out with the Bramham Moor Foxhounds.

ANNIE FOWLER, Columbine at the Grecian Theatre, has died from the effect of burns; her clothes took fire during rehearsal.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA has conferred a donation of six months' batta on the force under Major-General Whitlock, in consideration of the long, enduring, and important services rendered by that force.

A SERVANT GIRL OF GENOA, emulous of the fame of the maid (servant) of Bologna, who baptised young Mortara, committed the same offence upon a young Jew, Leone Levi. The parents of the child, however, prosecuted her, and she was sentenced to fifty scudi fine and six months' imprisonment.

A CROWD OF PEOPLE were watching a detachment of militia marching, with band playing, through the streets of Carlisle, when a horse took fright and overturned the cart. A number of people were injured—some women and children very seriously.

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION states that there are nearly four millions of Roman Catholics in the United States. Bishops, priests, and nuns are increasing in numbers, and cathedrals, churches, nunneries, and Romish institutions are springing up all over the land.

AN OFFER HAS BEEN MADE MR. SPURGEON OF £10,000 (dollars?) to preach four discourses in the spacious Music Hall of New York.

THE ALBERTO, steam sloop, which has lately returned home from the West Coast of Africa, has done well in prize-money. The able seamen will share at least £160 each, and the ordinary seamen about half that proportion, in addition to the usual wages.

THE JEWS OF SYDNEY have resolved on an address to Baron Rothschild, congratulating him on his election to a seat in the British Parliament.

MR. TENNYSON'S NEW POEM OF KING ARTHUR is shortly to be published by the executors of the late Mr. Moxon, it is said.

THE REV. CHARLES COLLINS, formerly of Exeter, who seceded to the Church of Rome, has, from sober conviction, re-embraced the Protestant faith.

THE "DAILY NEWS" hints that the Emperor's address to the Austrian Ambassador was delivered with the object of enabling a near relative to "pot" about £80,000 on the Bourse.

CAPTAIN SHEPHERD has been compelled to resign his seat in the Council of India, in consequence of ill-health.

MR. COUCH, of the Norfolk Circuit, is to succeed Mr. Serjeant Wells as the Recorder of Bedford.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN has conferred the Order of the Golden Fleece on the Prince of Wales.

THE ENTERPRISE, one of the abandoned Arctic discovery ships, which was given up to the British government and sent to Chatham, has been sent to Sheerness, to be used as a coal depot for the vessels of the steam reserve fleet at Chatham and Sheerness.

THE MILTON CLUB is a defunct institution; and has advertised its stock of wines for sale at high prices. It has failed, say the Unitarians, because they were excluded. Milton, according to his modern acquaintances, was an Unitarian.

THERE IS A REPORT that the Emperor Alexander will come to England on a visit to the Queen in May—accompanied by the Empress Dowager.

THE "TIMES" announces on authority that public works in India will not be stopped on account of the financial deficit.

MR. JAMES HUTCHINSON, the chairman of the London Stock Exchange, has resigned, on the ground of ill-health.

A GROSS OUTRAGE was perpetrated on Mr. Strong, the chaplain of the British fleet channel mission, on Sunday, by the crew of the Walton, of Nova Scotia. They broke his hat, stunned him, and tried to throw him overboard.

MR. BOYLE, one of the defenders of Arrah, has received a Government grant of lands to the value of £1,000 per annum British, for life, free of all charge, with a reversion to the value of £500 per annum to his heirs; accompanied with a recognition of his "very valuable services" rendered in his fortified house at Arrah, in July, 1857.

THE REV. J. RICHARDSON, master of Appleby Grammar School, has translated the "Song of Solomon" into the Westmoreland dialect, for Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte. This song, in the dialects of Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Northumberland, is now in the press, by order of the Prince.

THE PALACE OF TIPPOO SULTAN, at Seringapatam, is being elaborately re-embellished. The natives have been allowed to exercise their own taste in the work, and have chosen to represent on a large cartoon the defeat of the British forces under Colonel Baillie, by Tippos Sultan.

A YOUNG MAN (says the "New Orleans Advocate") died of the yellow fever, and being far away from his family, was followed to the grave by strangers. When the coffin was being finally closed, an old lady who stood by, said, "Let me kiss him for his mother;" and she actually did so.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT is about to send presents to the Emperor of Japan; part of them will consist of 100 muskets of a beautiful model for his Majesty's body guard, two pieces of cannon, and some Gobelin's tapestry.

MADAME ANNA BISHOP is now no longer Madame Anna Bishop, but Madame Schulze, having been recently united to an American gentleman of that name.

MR. RALPH EARLE, who has acted for several months as private secretary to Mr. Disraeli, is appointed, it is said, paid attaché at Constantinople. Mr. Lytton has also obtained promotion, and joins the embassy at Vienna. Mr. Bonham, many years consul at Calais, is made consul at Naples, in place of the late Captain Galloway.

THE GOVERNMENT intend to transfer the library and museum at the East India House to the British Museum.

THE EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF FEMALE ARTISTS, to be opened for the second season next month, will be held in the Gallery near the Haymarket Theatre.

LADY SUSAN LESLIE MELVILLE is appointed Lady of the Bedchamber to her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, in succession to Lady Anna Maria Dawson, who has resigned on account of the state of her health. Lady Anna Maria Dawson is appointed an extra Lady of the Bedchamber to her Royal Highness.

MR. ERNEST JONES has brought an action for libel against Mr. G. W. M. Reynolds. Mr. Edwin James, Q.C., has been retained on behalf of Mr. Jones.

AN OLD LADY, seventy-three years of age, died suddenly in the pit of the Adelphi Theatre, last week, during the performance of the pantomime.

AN ORNAMENTAL PIECE OF ORDNANCE, cast in a composition of brass and a mixture of some other more valuable metal, said to be gold, presented some years ago to her Majesty by Sir James Brooke, the Rajah of Sarawak, and supposed to have been a wall piece at the entrance of the royal residence, has been transmitted from Woolwich to the royal armoury at Windsor Palace.

THE MODERN REBECCA.

THE populations of Algeria are more various, perhaps, than in any other region of the earth; and, at the same time, they are very distinct. Thus it is that the modern Rebecca draws water for admiring Spaniards, for Italians, for Germans, Swiss, Portuguese, French, Anglo-Maltese. After the French, of whom there are eighty thousand in Algeria (but then the army counts), the most numerous population is the Spanish. There are between thirty and forty thousand of them—from the Balearic isles chiefly, says Madame Bodichon's "Guide-book," with eight or nine thousand Italians, seven or eight thousand Germans, about two thousand Swiss, eight thousand Maltese, and a sprinkling of emigrants from Portugal. The native population numbers about 2,500,000, half Kabyles, half Moors and Arabs.

As a consequence, nowhere in the world, be it Malta, Gibraltar, Venice, Athens, Corfu, Constantinople, is the contrast so frequent between European manners and primitive and Eastern life as in Algiers. Here are mosques and theatres, palm-groves and billiard-rooms, memories of the Palais Royal, and monuments of the Jugurthine war; old colonnades, old temples, and modern gas; Arab camel drivers and French postilions, Moorish maidens and Parisian *modistes*, Roman conduits and Zouave cantonments, the old Mahometan *indigine* and the Spanish immigrant—all these things and persons jostling one another without limit and without confusion.

The Moors are, of course, the characteristic race. They left the mark of refinement and luxury on the shores of Spain; and here, also, are they first in arts and manufactures, revelling, as they always did, in the forms of beauty and the luxuries of art. It is difficult to speak of their origin. We know that they are descended from Greeks, Spaniards, Italians, French, and even Germans, who have intermarried with Moors; so that, except in a few families whose genealogical tree is very long and very correct, the true type of the Moorish race is hardly ever seen.

But the Moor of Algiers is of an imposing presence. His occupation (if he has any) is that of merchant; which means, obtaining goods from the Arabs and Kabyles in exchange for commodities which cost him nothing, and selling these wares to Europeans for the largest sum that his stolidity or his eloquence can extort. Of course he is rivalled by the Jew. Here we find him, as elsewhere, trading in everything, with everybody, at any time, in any place. In Algiers the Jew deals in cotton, pepper, cloves, sugar, and coffee; he vendis henna and antimony black; he repairs arms, and polishes and sets jewels. Always on the *qui vive*, no traffic comes amiss to him, and so he wriggles about in every sort of gain. And he need make hay while the sun shines; for it is a favourite amusement with the Arabs and Moors to get up a row for the purpose of pillage, when the Jew is generally the sufferer.

This brings us back to the subject of our engraving, which illustrates an every-day occurrence in Algiers. A dark-eyed daughter of Abraham goes forth, pitcher on head, to fetch water; she saunters quietly along, under the shade of palm and olive trees, until she arrives at the well. She mounts the steps, and takes the pitcher from her head and fills it. In the meantime a couple of Spaniards are seen trotting along the dusty road; they dismount, and approach the well. One, with a natural gallantry, removes his hat, and asks Rebekah for a drink from her pitcher, and some sharp talking and laughing (what in London would be called "chaff") evidently takes place. First she will not give him a drink, then she will. Balancing the pitcher on her arm in the most graceful manner, she dexterously pours the water into the mouth of the thirsty Spaniard; but, alas! he is not to come off so easily, for to finish the mischief she pours a considerable quantity of water down his neck.

Apart from the attractive face, Rebekah is rather an object of interest, her dress is extremely elegant and picturesque, and, no doubt, still retains some of the characteristics of her great ancestor's costume; indeed many of them are distinctly traceable. The very water-jug is venerable! Some of the Algerian Jewesses are extremely handsome, having fine regular classic features and limbs beautifully modelled. For the good looks of the Spaniards not so much can be said. Though their costume is picturesque, they (at least such as emigrate to Africa) are a hard-featured race, stern externally, but mild and polite in their manners. In the towns they find plenty of employment as masons, builders, and, what comes more natural to them, muleteers. They may be seen sauntering leisurely along the sea side, with a drove of beasts laden with fish, or up in the narrow steep streets of the Moorish towns. Always, calm, nothing seems to disturb them, and everything is done with a regard to dignity of manner. If his donkey slips, he is sure to come upon his feet in a dignified position, and will rebuke the animal with a dignified voice. If he asks you for a light for his cigarette, you feel that he is doing you a favour, and this though they are seldom rich; yet if you wish to purchase anything from a Spaniard, your question as to the price of the article will be met with a quiet removal of the cigarette from his mouth, or a condescending waive of the hand, as much as to say, "Now buy these things at once, and go away and don't bother me any more."

With the Moors, their ancient enemies, they may be seen on the Grand Place at night; side by side they walk, forgetting or appearing to forget their ancient hatred. The old Moor is scarcely less dignified in his manner than the Spaniard; but one has more sympathy with him. There is something very noble and imposing in an old Arab chief, walking solemnly up and down, silently listening to the music of the French military band (for these wild but noble fellows are deeply alive to poetry and music), or perhaps thinking of the time when a Christian dare not show his face on the spot where he now sees hundreds, and they his masters. However, he waits patiently for the end, with a strong belief in his prophet. But our business is not with him at present: and we have said all we have to say about the modern Rebecca.

A PRISON ATTORNEY has been appointed by the Court of Aldermen for Whitecross Street prison. About £500 is annually spent in assisting poor persons.

THE LENGTH OF CABLE FOR THE INDIAN TELEGRAPH FROM SUZ TO ADEN, manufactured by Messrs. Newall and Co., will be despatched from Liverpool about the 20th instant, in two vessels.

BARON GUSTAVE DE ROTHSCHILD, third son of Baron James de Rothschild, is about to marry the daughter of M. Anspach, judge of the Imperial Court, and, like himself, of the Jewish persuasion.

THE COST OF THE AMERICAN NAVY LAST YEAR was £2,800,000 sterling. Out of this sum nearly £2,000,000 was spent on the navy proper, and £140,000 for the marine corps.

THE SUM OF £100 has been placed at the disposal of the Council of the Society of Arts by Sir Walter C. Trevelyan, as a prize to be awarded for the best essay on the applications of the marine algae and their products as food or medicine for man and domestic animals, or for dyeing and other manufacturing purposes.

SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS who were shut up in a room in the prison at Ram-bouillet (Seine-et-Oise) set fire to the straw of their beds two nights back, and before assistance arrived two were suffocated.

MRS. SIMS REEVES is reported to be seriously ill.

IT IS PROPOSED to remove the Warwickshire Assizes to Birmingham.

A BEAUTIFUL CLIPPER BRIG, the *Wolverine*, was launched from the ship-building yard of Mr. Harvey, Littlehampton, last week.

THE DISTURBED STATE OF CONTINENTAL AFFAIRS has caused a considerable decline on our Stock Exchange.

THE HOME SECRETARY has been informed that a Ribbon Society exists at Newcastle.

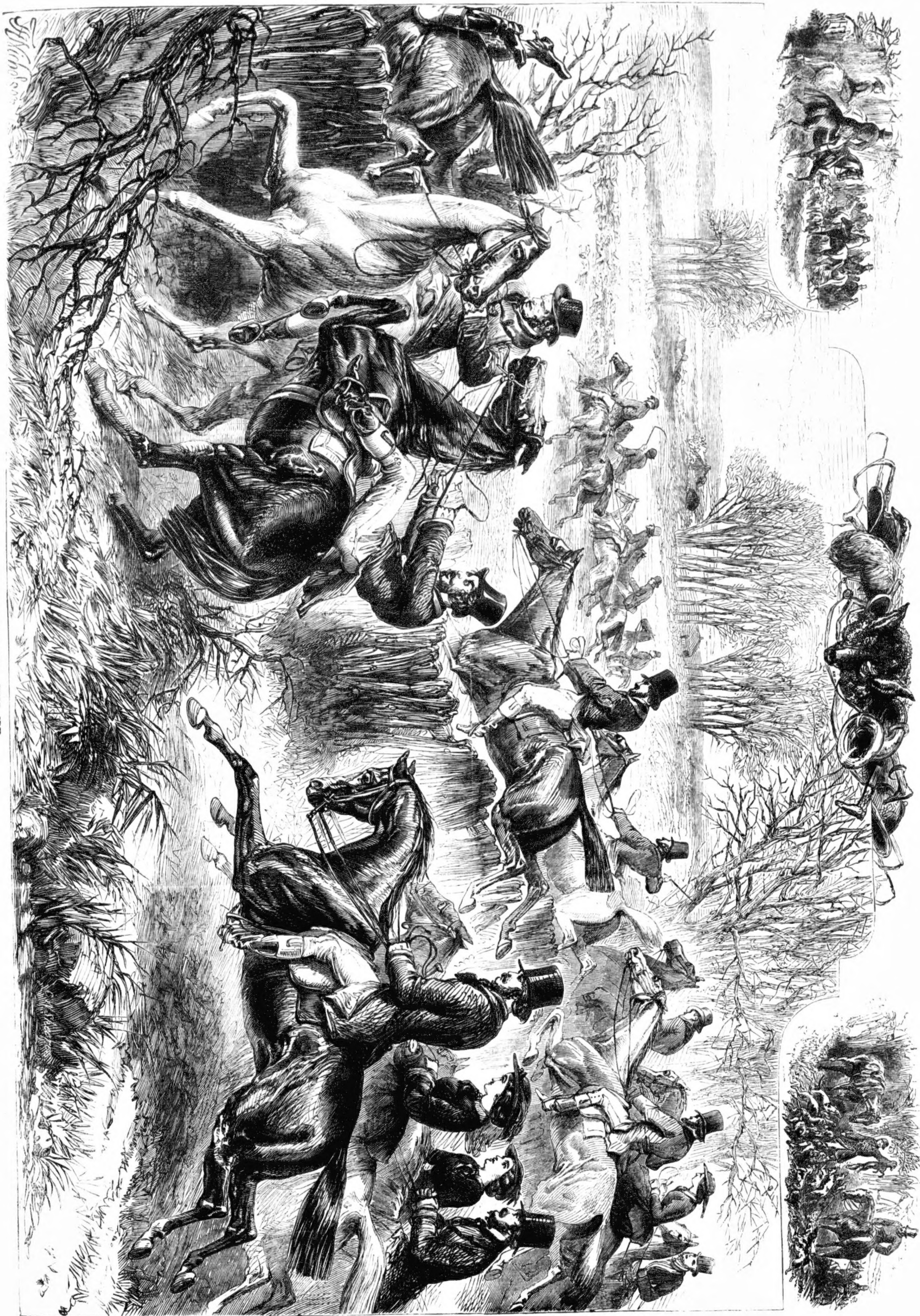
A CHILD WAS POISONED at SHEFFIELD, last week, and two others placed in great jeopardy, by the injudicious administration of a mixture of juniper berries, Spanish juice, and opium.

FIVE COWS AND A WELL-STORED BARN were destroyed by fire at Westgate Hill, near Bradford, last week.

FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS, have been subscribed to the Field Lane Refuge Committee, since the exposure in the press of the condition of our homeless poor, and two thousand pounds more have been subscribed to various kindred charities.



THE MODERN REBECCA.—[A SKETCH IN ALOIR.]



FOX HUNTING: FT. L. ORY

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

"*Tenez bonne table et soignez les femmes.*" was the pith of the instructions given by Napoleon the Great to the Abbé de Pradt, when despatched to win Poland to his cause; but it would appear that your man of the present day scarcely thinks the two admonitions can be simultaneously carried out, and when intending to go in for a *recherche* dinner, declines the presence of ladies. The great dinner question is now on the public carpet, and perhaps never was a topic more preposterously treated. The subject arose, as usual, from a sneer at the discomfort and badness of a domestic dinner, for many years an unflinching topic with your comic writers. To represent, either in letter-press or wood-engraving, an irate man kicking at a huge and unpleasant-looking joint, exclaiming, "What! mutton again!" and threatening to dine at his club, has been looked upon as a safe witticism, from the hot youth of Cruikshank to the staid middle-age of Leech—from the time when Planché first wrote burlesques, to the present day, when—*is mentioned as a comic publication.* Was not that noble-minded genius, Theodore Hook, always harping on this theme? To "go to the club" is the great threat, and one which is regarded by non-clubbists with the greatest awe! With them, to dine at a club is to partake of the most delicious dishes that Brillat-Savarin ever devised, or that Francatelli ever cooked; to imbibe Grand Lafitte of '34, Fleur de Sillery, Vieux Pomard, and Romance Gêlé! Whereas to the ordinary club man—I do not mean the used-up swell, who has lost every pleasure save those of eating and slandering, nor his Irish toady, nor his third-rate city imitator, nor the thick-headed old gentleman upon whom the entire set sometimes quarter themselves, and who is glad to spend his money for the sake of being seen in their brilliant society—not to these, but to the ordinary club man, the barrister, whether reading or called, the merchant, the journalist, the government-office clerk, and such like—the club-dinner means a very plain joint and vegetables, very small Romford beer, and perhaps a vinegar cruet of curiously thin sherry from the wood. Delusions all! I will wager that though he does not believe it, and grumbles constantly, Jones, tea-broker, of Cannon Street, dines better and more cheaply in his snugger at Balham Hill, than does Captain Lithpson at the Rag, or Mr. Replevin, Q.C., at the Grimaldi Club.

Had the comic writers and fun-purveyors to the metropolis been alone in this last *razzia* one would not have wondered, knowing as we all do the excellent manner in which their own domestic economy is generally managed, and the classic elegance of their own private banquets; but the grave and serious "Times" has devoted a couple of articles to the subject, and has inserted several letters bearing upon it. Of these latter, the most remarkable are those signed G. H. M. (they are dated from Berkeley Street, and "Kelly's Directory" will soon place you in possession of the writer's name should you wish to know whom to avoid!) which are more extravagant, absurd, and ridiculously snobbish than anything which has found its way into type for some time past. The general tone of arrogance and ostentation, and the affected use of French phrases and grandiloquent language, remind one of some of Mr. Thackeray's happiest parodies; indeed, it is difficult to imagine that the whole thing is not a joke, were it not for the editorial articles in the "Times," which are almost as puerile and offensive. To those who love choice phrases and the "well of English undefiled," I commend the leader of Tuesday last, in which ladies are pleasantly described as "filling themselves with mutton," and spoken of as "when in this state of repletion." Believe not in all this blatant outcry, nor think that nothing good is to be had in this miserable London of ours! Of course, an ordinary middle-class family's "plain cook" cannot send to table a grand dinner after the French fashion; and if you are a family man you must submit to the withering sarcasm of the jesters and the conscious superiority of G. H. M., and put up with plain roast and boiled; but at Verrey's, in Regent Street, you will get as good a French dinner, as well cooked, and as well served, *à la carte*, as you would in any first-class Paris restaurant; nor in cleanliness and excellence of appointments (I speak not, of course, of gilded mirrors and stamped velvet seats) can the Wellington be surpassed in any continental city which I have seen. If you have ample means, and wish to improve your taste for gastronomy, read Brillat-Savarin's "Physiologie du Goût;" if you are a *gourmand* with small means, a study of "Walker's Original" will considerably help you to gratify your passions. If you are lucky enough to possess the acquaintance of Mr. Abraham Hayward, Q.C., you will need neither of these works, as that gentleman is supposed to be the greatest authority on dinner-giving now living. But don't be led away by the arrogant sophistries of G. H. M., nor be bullied into the belief that the possession of an income of five thousand a-year and the command of a French *chef*, are necessary to procure a good and elegant dinner.

The Prince of Wales has at length winged his first real flight from the parental nest, and under the nautical care of Captain Smithett, omni-present where voyaging Royalty is concerned, has crossed to Ostend, *en route* for Rome. Exeter Hall trembles at the thought of the hope of England being exposed for a period of five months to the chance of an embrace from the Scarlet Lady of the Seven Hills; but, truth to tell, there does not seem much to fear. The "liner" who has so carefully watched over the Prince from his childhood—who recorded his sponsorial gifts and his infantile airings in the arms of the nutritious Lilly—a Lilly that was never painted, though the refined gold bestowed on her was doubtless doubly gilt—the "liner" tells us that the object of his Royal Highness's visit to the Eternal City is, to pursue his studies! This, in the general acceptance of the phrase, is of course nonsense: the Prince goes abroad, like any other young gentleman possessing the requisite means, to see men and manners; nor, from his antecedents, is there any reason to fear that the sight will be obtained in any improper way. Report says that his guardian, Mr. Farver, is a Christian gentleman, and a man of the world; and if he has but to shake his head occasionally at the ordinary peccadilloes of youth, the English nation, which expects and likes "boys to be boys," will not much mind. One great advantage is, that he goes *incognito*, that is to say, that he dispenses with the salutes and kotoings which otherwise he would have to submit to. Perhaps this may be the result of the painful example afforded to the Prince of Wales in the person of his younger brother Alfred, a young gentleman for whom the aforesaid "liner" won all our sympathies by the description of the simplicity of his outfit and the ordinary naval-cadet life which he was going to lead, and whom we now find dancing with Lieutenant-Governoresses at balls, reviewing troops, dining at messes, and put through a course of flunkeydom sufficient to turn a much wiser head than is usually found on a boy of fifteen.

A new life throbs through the Treasury, and on the lips of the over-worked clerks of that department—even at this time of year when balls and operas are not—a smile is seen! For the great Sir Charles Trevelyan, the Legree of official life, the terror of people who "wanted to know, you know," the indefatigable assistant-secretary who not only worked himself, but was the cause of work in others, is about to leave Whitehall, having been appointed governor-general of Madras in the place of Lord Harris. With all his pertinacity and his crochets, his obstinacy and unflinching determination, he is a man whom the Government will find it hard to replace. His capability for work was enormous—witness the manner in which he conducted the Irish famine business in '48, and his whole soul was concentrated in the pigeon-holes of his desk, and on the tape-tied papers on the top of it. One could scarcely imagine that he would have been lured from his present position, but that he is getting on in life, and the pensions of retiring governor-generals are fat, and payable, moreover, after a few years' service!

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The theatres have been very well filled during the last week; and the usual Christmas business, so long protracted, seems at length to have arrived. No change has been made in any of the bills, save at the PRINCESS'S, where Mr. Kean has revived "Hamlet" with great success, and the ADELPHI, at which Mr. Hollingshead's clever little sketch,

"The Birthplace of Podgers," has been received with unbounded laughter.

Mr. Wigan is in treaty for the Lyceum Theatre, and the transaction will be concluded, one way or other, in a few days. Should Mr. Wigan not be the future lessee, it is not improbable that the direction will be undertaken by Madame Celeste.

Miss Henrietta Simms, who makes her *début* at the Adelphi on Monday, has for some time been a great favourite at Edinburgh and other provincial theatres.

A new two-act drama by Mr. Slous, author of "The Templars," &c., is in rehearsal at the Adelphi; and it is understood that an engagement is pending with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews to appear at the same theatre.

Mr. Joseph Robins, who was making such rapid progress in his profession at the Edinburgh theatre, has been prevented by severe illness from appearing on the stage for some time past. He is, however, slowly recovering, and it is hoped he will be able shortly to resume his duties.

Will "Trois-Etoiles" communicate further with me on the subject of the last paragraph of his letter? Something might, I think, be done.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.

ONE of the most interesting collections of photographs and daguerotypes that has yet been seen in London, is now open to the public at the Gallery of the Society of British Artists, in Suffolk Street. It is generally remarked that this, the sixth annual exhibition of the Photographic Society, shows a decided progress in the art of sun-painting. Not that any great improvement has been effected in the process, but its sphere of application has been widened. The catalogue contains the titles of 643 specimens (with many of which the public were already acquainted), but out of the entire number comparatively few are portraits. There are figures (taken more for the sake of the costume or the pose, than for the face), plants, landscapes, "scenes" from the east, west, north, and south, photographs from pictures, photographs from engravings, photographs from pencil, sepia, and Indian ink drawings, and photographs from the cartoons of Raphael. Nearly all the specimens exhibited at the Crystal Palace re-appear at the Suffolk Street Gallery; and many of the photographs from pictures (the admirable series from Delacroix, by Bingham, for instance) are to be seen in the windows of all the principal London print-sellers. Moreover, this collection includes a certain number of the favourite show pictures, which for some time past have been hanging in frames outside photographers' shops; but, in spite of this, there are a sufficient number of entirely new productions in the gallery to render the exhibition interesting and attractive. We think in future the Association would do well to exhibit no photographs that have already been shown in public. Artists can paint pictures expressly for the Academy and for some half dozen other galleries, and surely it is not too much to expect of photographers that they will devote a few seconds, or even minutes, once a year to the production of some specimen adapted for exhibition in the rooms of the Photographic Society. One of our contemporaries has complained of being followed everywhere by the eternal "Fading Away;" and it is a fact that that photograph has been visible at the Crystal Palace and in any number of print shops for months past—to say nothing of an engraving from it which appeared some time since in the "Illustrated Times."

Among the portraits, every one will notice the collection of heads from "Our Club," photographed by Dr. Diamond, the secretary of the Association. Many of the faces (especially that of Douglas Jerrold, in the centre) are familiar to a large portion of the public, who will thus be able to judge for themselves of the Doctor's photographic skill. Of the coloured portraits, those by Messrs. Lock and Whittfield must be ranked among the very best. They are not over-painted (as is the case with some of the French coloured photographs), and, above all, the colouring is true. A portrait of the late Mr. Gilbert a Beckett has been coloured most effectively by Mr. Alfred Weigall, who, out of a plain photograph, has made an admirable picture, and, at the same time, a striking likeness.

Among the photographs from pictures, of which the gallery contains a large number, we must call attention to those which Messrs. Caldesi and Montecchi, and Mr. Thurton Thompson have executed from Raphael's cartoons, to Mr. Pretsch's fac-similes of drawings and engravings, to the Holy Families of Mr. Fenton (chiefly known in connection with Eastern subjects), to Mr. Bingham's photographic copies from Delacroix's most celebrated paintings, &c. The numbers forming Mr. Bingham's Delacroix series ought to be sold separately. The respectable firm of Goupil and Co. can scarcely imagine that any one wants thirteen or fourteen photographs from Delacroix. On the other hand, a great many persons would be glad to have two or three.

One of the most remarkable photographs in the gallery is a view of Cairo, some five or six yards long, by Mr. F. Frith. But its size is not its only merit. It is also wonderfully clear and bright.

We are glad to see that several foreigners have sent photographs to the Exhibition of the Photographic Society. Their contributions will be very interesting if they will make a point, from time to time, to forward us representations of such characteristic types as their countries happen to afford. An Italian, Signor Ulinari, is the photographer of a general view of Sienna—the birthplace of our friend Piccolomini—and of a variety of pencil drawings. Gospodin Chloponin, a Russian, has supplied a portrait of Prince Orbeliani in the Georgian national dress, and another of the prior of the Greek monastery at Jerusalem, in his canonicals. He also exhibits a "Moldavian Lady," a "Russian Carpenter," and "The Queen of Spades,"—the latter being simply a lady in a fancy dress, suggested by a well-known incident in Pouchkin's novel of the same name.

A NEW SUBMARINE BOAT.—An American claims to have invented a submarine boat. He says that he has remained under water in it four hours without air tubes; that he can move it under water three miles an hour; rise and sink at pleasure; carry and fix to hostile ships powder torpedoes; use a 24-pounder against the hull of a ship, firing, disappearing to load, rising and firing again; he can use his boat for "several days" at sea without showing an inch above water; and do many other wonderful things. His own Government would not look at his invention; it was offered to the French—he got no reply. He has now brought it to England, and has received prompt and full attention from the Surveyor of the Navy.

SOYER'S WILL.—The will of M. Soyer, of Marlborough Road, St. John's Wood, who died on the 5th of August last, was administered to by a creditor, to whom was granted letters of administration with the will amended, the executors and residuary legatees having renounced. A caveat was entered, which had delayed the passing of the grant until the 23rd of December. The personality was sworn under £1,500. The will is very short, being contained on one side of foolscap, and the signature is very feebly written. It is dated the 19th of June, 1858. He bequeathed to the National Gallery the following pictures:—"English Ceres," "Young Israelites," "Young Bavarians," "A Centaurian," and the portrait of Madame Soyer, his late wife. To Mr. Blackwell, of Soho Square, and his partner, Mr. Crose, each a picture; to the first, "The Donkey Boy," and to the other any picture he may select; £50 to a niece; £100 to the Kensal Green Cemetery, where he has a vault; and the residue to Mrs. Cooke, many years his housekeeper.

COURTIOUS, BUT INTOXICATED.—The late Mr. Huddleston believed himself to be lineally descended from Athelstane, of which his name was allowed to be an undeniable corruption; and amongst others by the late Duke of Norfolk. These two worthies often met over a bottle to discuss the respective pretensions of the pedigrees; and on one of these occasions, when Mr. Huddleston was dining with the Duke, the discussion was prolonged till the untitled descendant of the Saxon Kings fairly rolled from his chair upon the floor. One of the younger members of the family hastened, by the Duke's desire, to re-establish him, but he sternly repelled the proffered hand of the cadet. "Never," he bellowed out, "shall it be said that the head of the house of Huddleston was lifted from the ground by a younger branch of the house of Howard." "Well, then, my good old friend," said the good-natured Duke, "I must try what I can do for you myself. The head of the house of Howard is too far gone to pick up the head of the house of Huddleston, but he will lie down beside him with all the pleasure in the world," so saying, the Duke also took his place upon the floor.—Court Circular.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THERE has been no change of performance at the Royal English Opera since the production of "Satanella," except on one occasion, when the Queen commanded a performance of Sterndale Bennett's "May Queen," which necessitated the appearance of Miss Louisa Pynne at Windsor. Her Majesty is more fortunate than we are in several respects, but especially in having heard the music of the "May Queen" sung by the most accomplished vocalist that England possesses. Of course, every one at the Palace was in raptures with the performance, but, above all, the court newsmen, who took advantage of the general joy, to insert in the ordinary "Circular" several long extracts from Mr. Chorley's libretto. The tenor was Mr. Sims Reeves—the original representative of the part of "Lover," and the bass Mr. Weiss. On the night of the "May Queen," "Fra Diavolo" was given at the Royal English Opera instead of Mr. Balfe's new opera. Mr. Harrison played the part of the hero, Miss Rebecca Isaacs that of Zerlina, and the house was crowded.

Several concerts have been given lately at the St. James's Hall, at which the principal "attractions" announced were Miss Goddard and Mr. Sims Reeves, and the principal "attraction" who appeared, Miss Goddard. At the concert, however, of last week, Madame Viardot sang. Our present object in mentioning these Monday evening entertainments is, in the first place, to chronicle the fact that they are taking place, and, in the second, to protest against the facetious brutality of some of our contemporaries, who encourage the popular fallacy that Mr. Sims Reeves is in the habit of affecting illness to avoid singing. Putting aside the fact, that it would be discreditable and dishonourable to do anything of the kind, it should be remembered that a vocalist of Mr. Sims Reeves' eminence must lose at least twenty or twenty-five guineas by omitting to fulfil an engagement to sing a couple of songs. The only tenors who indulge in the well-known "*maladie de larynx*" are those who are engaged by the year or the season, and who have no direct interest in the theatre where they are in the habit of performing: what Mr. Sims Reeves is to gain by not making his appearance at a concert where he is expected, and where every one is anxious to hear him, it is difficult to imagine. Indeed it is not the tenor himself, it is his doctor, with whom the public should find fault, if fault is to be found. The physician signs the certificate of illness, which is invariably exhibited, and it might, perhaps, be argued that the physician ought to cure his patient; but it is absurd to imagine that the patient takes a pleasure in being unwell, or that he pretends to be so in order to lose money himself, and to cause his medical attendant to commit perjury. The truth is, that Mr. Sims Reeves has for some weeks past been more or less indisposed, as must have been evident to those who have seen and heard him on the occasions when he *has* sung; and that last week, when a disgraceful disturbance, consequent on his non-appearance, took place at the St. James's Hall, he was seriously ill.

The attempt to establish a French "Opéra Comique" at the St. James's Theatre, with utterly incompetent singers, has not yet been attended with open failure. There are people in the boxes, and people in the pit, and all sorts of people in the gallery at each successive representation, and Madame Fauré is loudly applauded, especially when she sings a very high note or breaks down in an unusually difficult passage. Madame Fauré is the *prima donna* of the affair, and with all her faults, has some merit as an actress. She is vivacious, energetic, and never willingly allows the interest of any scene in which she happens to be engaged to flag for an instant. Nor is her singing devoid of expression; and if she were to confine herself to the execution of vaudeville airs, she would be remarked, in any theatre, as possessing great vocal qualities. People would even ask one another whether she might not succeed in opera, whereas, hearing her in opera, it is difficult not to imagine that her proper sphere is that of the vaudeville. M. Fougères, the first tenor, comes to us from Amsterdam. Apparently the climate of the Dutch capital has had the same effect upon his voice which dampness produces on stringed instruments. One thing is certain, that M. Fougères cannot sing in tune. Of course, he is not so offensive when he sings in a subdued tone as when he shouts, but, unfortunately, he sometimes *does* shout. Mlle. Céline Mathieu, who takes second soprano parts, is in some respects pleasing, but she is of no account as a vocalist. The comic people are not laughable, even when we consider their pretension to amuse; and, in a vocal point of view, there is no bass or baritone in the company who is worth a moment's consideration. The chorus is indifferent; but the orchestra, under the direction of M. Rémusat, the flute player (who is also the ingenious *improvisatore*) is exceedingly good. The *répertoire* of the establishment (according to the prospectus) is considerable, and includes some of the most celebrated works of the greatest French composers, of which many have never been heard at all in this country. However, the experiment on the opening night with Auber's "La Part du Diable," was a thorough failure. The part of Raphael, the student of divinity, who ruins himself in buying dresses he doesn't want from a dressmaker he wishes to marry, was played by M. Fougères, the Amsterdam tenor, Casilda, the object of his affections, being personated by Mlle. Céline Mathieu. The part of Carlo Broschi, the supposed agent of the demon, was taken by Mlle. Fauré, who, as we have said, is the most attractive member of the company, and who comes to us from the Théâtre Lyrique, though what position she occupied at that establishment does not appear. Her execution of the charming air which runs through the opera, and which has so wonderful an effect on the semi-lunatic king, seemed to afford almost equal delight to the audience; and her singing of the pretty couplets which occur at the commencement of the second act, gained for her the honour of an encore. Auber's music is so full of melody, that, unless given decidedly out of tune, it will please an audience in spite even of certain deficiencies in the execution. The second opera on M. Rémusat's list was "Les Diamants de la Couronne," which was performed as indifferently as its predecessor. Madame Fauré was, of course, the Catarina, and she certainly sang and acted with much intelligence. But her voice is harsh and thin, and her artistic qualities are not sufficient to compensate for such grave defects. The most praiseworthy portions of her performance were her singing of the well-known air with chorus in the first act, and of the first soprano's part in the duet for the two women. The duet was encored; indeed it is in itself so pleasing, that it would probably be applauded if it were only whistled. The well-known air which follows the duet, like most of the soprano's airs in Auber's operas, is full of difficulties. Written with the view of affording some highly-accomplished vocalist an opportunity of displaying her facility of execution, these *bravuras* contain passages which are so many stumbling-blocks in the way of an ordinary singer, and which upset Madame Fauré altogether. M. Fougères sang as badly in "Les Diamants de la Couronne" as he had previously done in "La Part du mable," which is the worst that need be said of him.

M. Rémusat speaks of establishing his Opéra Comique in London as a permanent institution. But the public will not allow it. Let us, by all means, have as many admirable singers from abroad as can be induced to visit England, but as for incompetent ones—why the market is already overstocked.

OPERA AT DRURY LANE.—Mr. E. T. Smith has resolved upon opening Drury Lane Theatre for Italian opera performances (after the run of the pantomime) some time in April, and engagements are already completed with the following artists:—Tenors: Signor Morgini, of the Royal Opera, St. Petersburg, and Signor Graziani (brother of the celebrated baritone), of the Imperial Opera, Paris. Baritones: Signor Badiali (now singing at the Imperial Theatre, Paris), Signor Graziani (late of the Royal Opera, Covent Garden), and Signor Fagotti, of the Royal Opera, Parma. During the season both Persiani and Viardot will probably appear. M. Benedict is to superintend the chorus and the orchestra.

NEW APPOINTMENTS.—Sir Charles Trevelyan, Assistant-Secretary to the Treasury, is to succeed Lord Harris as Governor-General of Madras. Mr. Hamilton, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, will succeed Sir Charles Trevelyan in the permanent office which he has just resigned; and we have reason to believe that Mr. Disraeli has appointed Sir Stafford Northcote, Bart., C.B., M.P. for Stamford, to succeed Mr. Hamilton as Financial Secretary. Mr. George Dundas is appointed Governor of Prince Edward's Island.

Literature

Unprotected Females in Sicily and Calabria.

London: Routledge and Co.

For "Unprotected Females" have been to Italy, but, as might be expected, have not much to say about those portions of the result which are visited by the ordinary tourist. We learn, in a few pages, how they travelled through Piedmont and Tuscany, sailed to Genoa, to Naples, and thence from Naples to Palermo, where, in a pantomimic language, "the fun begins." The Unprotected have landed in Sicily, when they are beset by a host of coachmen and robber-beggars, from whose entreaties and extortions they have some trouble in escaping. Then, passing the fountains, the one of the Madonna, and the opera placards, which adorn the centre of the city, their attention is attracted by an iron bridge on wheels, which is used for crossing very muddy places, and without which no thoroughfare is considered complete. They also see young men of fashion taking rattings on "glossy donkeys," and merchants discussing business transactions in the pretty drawing-rooms opening on to the street which forms their Exchange. But Donna Luisa is going to church, and she alone has the privilege of interesting our unprotected sufficiently to cause them to follow her. The unprotected (who, though she travels in company with her unprotected, is the sole historian of the tour) observes that the pleasure of being in Sicily depends upon whether you prove *simpatico* or *antipatico* to the inhabitants; and a little adventure that the writer met with in the church where Donna Luisa went to pray, leaves no doubt as to which of the two epithets must have been considered most applicable to herself. "After a long journey among them," she tells us, "we can unhesitatingly echo their character to be more sincere than the French, more courteous than the English, more refined than the Germans." But we must not forget what took place in the cathedral. "From the first moment, Madamizella, in which I had the good fortune to see you in the cathedral church (writes some one, "whose noble and honourable name I must not tell") you inspired me with such a sympathy (excuse me) as could certainly not be exceeded. In consequence, I would pray your innate kindness to allow me to address some words to you, or to your mamma, to know if there is any chance of my affection being returned, and arrangements made to let this accidental meeting be everlasting. I leave this at your hotel, impatiently hoping this day to receive a reply. Forgive, amiable young lady, an intimation caused, &c., &c., and hoping to be able to express the high consideration which I feel for you.—Your humble, devoted servant, &c."

The above is "the substance in plain English" of what "Madamizella" calls a "truly Sicilian document." She has taken the trouble to omit one or two "gentilissimas" and an allusion to her "physical and moral charms." But it is a very nice love-letter as it stands; just as one as a gentleman might write and that a lady should not publish. If such communications are to be converted into "copy" under pretence of being characteristic, why may not similar ones be published on the plea that they are models of style or full of passion effectively expressed? All the "Letters of a Portuguese Nun" were originally addressed to a French officer of dragons. He had proved himself unable to appreciate the worth of the writer, but he knew the market value of her epistles; and, instead of answering them, sold them to a publisher. Young ladies on their travels—especially if they happen to be pretty as well as unprotected—run the chance in every country they visit of having documents addressed to them which are sure to be characteristic of something or other; either of the nation to which the writer belongs, or of the writer's own amiability, or perhaps even of his stupidity—for all love-letters, as a rule, are either admirable or absurd. Many young ladies, moreover, without ever having left England at all, have collected goodly batches of these interesting compositions. What a sensation it would cause if they were to print them!

Nature young ladies who visit Sicily," says our (still) unprotected authoress, "and may be disposed to look favourably on propositions for remaining there, might wish to know what the interiors of the houses of the upper classes are like." The state or reception rooms on the first floor appear to be very handsome. The *palazzi* are built of marble, the walls and ceilings are covered with paintings in the pastoral style, the windows are hung with mythological tapestry, and there is "so much gilding round the mirrors and cornices that it takes an ounce of gold a day [from £1,200 to £1,600 a year?] to keep it brilliant." The family, however, seldom venture into the grand apartments. They prefer to sit upstairs, where, in the morning, they may be found "sipping their coffee with heads wrapped up in old handkerchiefs or nightcaps, bodies in ragged cotton or dressing-gowns, feet in shoes just good enough to burn over the brass basins of charcoal." Occasionally, a rich family spends a fortune on one dazzling entertainment, but there is no such thing as friendly visiting. Nor is there any conversation on literary or (necessarily) on political subjects; but there is a great deal of gambling, and the people are "accused" of flirting! Sicilians cannot be very angry, and, in all probability will be much amused, at the mention of such a formidable charge.

Like the rest of the Italians, the Sicilians appear to scarcely have preserved even their passion for music; at all events, throughout Italy the tradition of grand composition is gradually being lost—in the birthplace of Bellini as elsewhere. Verdi, with all his talent, is the last of a descending series of composers which commences with Rossini, and has for its middle terms Bellini and Donizetti; and it appears that in Palermo even Verdi is scarcely listened to. The Sicilians go to the opera as to a *conversazione*, and pay about as much attention to the singers as the loungers in Kensington Gardens do to the music of the military band.

The "Trovatore," which, without being a great work, has had the greatest success ever attained by an opera, was played at Cosenza, when the unprotected were there, and we are told that, "beautifully performed in the heart of its own native mountains, it was irresistibly stirring." We never knew before, nor were we aware that any one ever pretended to know, to what period or what country the slightly inexplicable story of the "Trovatore" belonged. It appears that theatrical jealousies have penetrated even to Cosenza, and that none of the lady singers condescend to be called *seconde donne*, but *comprime donne*; though on benefit-nights they willingly condescend to go round the theatre and collect money in person! This is, however, not a result of "primitiveness," as the authoress supposes. The same thing is done in some of the best of the Italian theatres; or if the *beneficiaire* does not go round to the boxes, she will sit at the receipt of custom and take all the jewellery or money beyond the regulation price that happens to be offered to her.

In spite of various forbidden and improbable topics, the Italians have not altogether lost their conversational talent, nor, above all, their native wit; and we are told that the Sicilians, by allusions and innuendoes, protest more pointedly against the despotism of Naples than the Neapolitans themselves. Of this several instances are given, and the authoress states, as her decided opinion, after inquiring into the subject on the spot, that there were no exaggerations in Mr. Gladstone's celebrated pamphlet on the affairs of the Two Sicilies.

It appears that, with all their kindness of disposition, the Sicilians are in the habit of ill-treating animals to such a degree that the English ladies were on several occasions shocked, and once felt called upon to express their abhorrence of such cruelty. "You see," replied Don Ciro, a Sicilian judge, "that Italians do not treat mankind with civility, as you English ladies do."

Altogether, the unprotected females in Sicily and Calabria may be said to have had less apparent need of protection than in the bleak, northern, comparatively untravelling countries that they visited the year before. For this reason, perhaps, we feel somewhat less interest in their personal adventures, but the descriptions are as fresh and brilliant in the present volume as in the earlier one, and nothing can be better than the account of the English ladies' visit to the catacombs of Palermo, where there were "10,000 grimy skeletons hung by the neck

in vaulted niches, others whose glass coffins show them in pumps and ball-dress—lived children crowned with roses—women with a leer of life in death, robed in satin, their poor woody arms poking out from bond sleeves—bones and dust dressed in all the tawdriness which, worn in life, shrinks from daylight."

It is evident, from the confessions of the inventors of the system, that the "unprotected" mode of travelling, on the whole, does not answer, though it has certainly led to the production of two very clever and entertaining books. The adventurous Englishwomen, during their Italian tour, had to wait for company (*i.e.* protection), on more than one occasion, and they were continually inconvenienced by having to depend on such chance assistance as they could manage to obtain upon the road through casual letters of introduction and otherwise. They may affect to rejoice at the difficulty young men experience in obtaining passports in Italy ("without which," the authoress tells us, complacently, "no one can travel into another province, so, fortunately, cannot follow anybody") but how if the passport system had had the effect of keeping away from Palermo the gentleman who wrote the "beautiful little note" to Madamizella? It appears to us that the passport system, and the unprotected mode of travelling, are very much alike. Both are attended by some petty advantages, and both are productive of monstrous inconveniences.

Curry and Rice. By CAPTAIN ATKINSON. London: Day and Son.

This is a very handsome—indeed magnificent—volume of coloured lithographs, illustrative of life in Hindostan. But let us give Captain Atkinson's title in full, which has the advantage of telling the reader very plainly what the book is all about. Here it is: "Curry and Rice on Forty Plates; or, the Ingredients of Social Life at our Station in India." Captain Atkinson is already favourably known to the public by his "Pictures from the North, in Pen and Pencil," his "Campaign in India, 1857-8," and other works; while we ourselves are specially indebted to him—and our readers through us—for some admirable drawings of scenes connected with the Indian mutiny, which were duly engraved and published in the "Illustrated Times." It is pleasant to think of the author of these sketches after all the fatigue and dangers he has undergone, as quietly reposing in England, and dedicating a work, which is eminently a work of peace, to his friend Mr. Thackeray. The collective significance of these humorous lithographs is simply this—that the war in India is losing its importance. "Our race," "our ball," "our theatrical," could not have been published a year since; and every one will be glad to hear, from the mouth of an officer of engineers who has only recently returned from the East, that the time has come for "dwelling upon the sunny side of Indian life, after all the narratives of horrors that have of late fallen upon the English ear." These forty plates of "Curry and Rice" certainly do more towards giving a notion of the humours and varieties of Indian life, than any work that has ever appeared. It is true that Captain Atkinson is chiefly attracted by the humorous aspect of things, but that is precisely the case with a satirical novelist; and to whom should we go for an accurate picture of English society if not to Mr. Thackeray?

Japan and its People. By ANDREW STEINMETZ.

London: Routledge and Co.

It is astonishing, on reading the new books that are now appearing on the subject of Japan, to see how little has been added to our stock of ideas concerning that country and its inhabitants, during the last hundred years, or more. Equally surprising will it be to a large portion of the public to find how much Europeans really know about the Japanese, and their customs—or have the means of knowing, if they will only take the trouble to read what has been published about them. During a portion of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Japan was open to all Europe, a circumstance which, as Mr. Steinmetz observes, was due to the labours of the Jesuits, though it must be remembered that the subsequent exclusion of the West is also attributable to the intrigues of that unscrupulous body. Since the middle of the seventeenth century, a monopoly of the European trade with Japan has been enjoyed by Holland, and from the accounts of the Dutch residents at the factory of Nagasaki, together with the previous writings of the Jesuit missionaries, ample information may be obtained as to the habits and manners, literature, language and mode of thought of the inhabitants. The late Mr. Macfarlane's "Japan, Geographical and Historical," was derived from the sources we have named; and since the publication of that valuable and interesting work, nothing very novel has been made known concerning the curious and interesting nation of which it treats. Mr. Steinmetz, however, has collected a few facts and incidents of importance from the narrative of the recent American expedition; and he has not only read, but made a careful study of, every work of authority relating to Japan. We may safely say, then, that his is the most complete, as it is also one of the most readable, of the numerous books—historical, geographical, political, general, and fictitious—that have been inspired by the country of the hour, though it must not be understood that the author by any means confines himself to the present aspect of its relations with the West of Europe. He gives a full account of the recent political events in Japanese waters; but the greater portion of his work is devoted to a consideration of the history, laws, and, above all, to the daily life, of the Japanese people.

The Autocrat of the Breakfast-table. By OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES. London: Strahan and Co.

The witty, occasionally thoughtful, always entertaining, papers collected under the title of the "Autocrat of the Breakfast-table," originally appeared in the columns of the "Atlantic Monthly," a magazine which was to have been supported by the combined talent of England and America, but which, in fact, exists by the contributions of American writers alone. The first part of the "Autocrat" appeared in the opening number of the magazine just mentioned, and most English readers at once set it down as the work of Mr. Lowell, the editor. No one thought of Mr. Holmes, probably because in England he is known only by a volume of poems full of humour, delicacy, and some downright fun. Mr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, however (who, since a certain melancholy event, which he has recorded in verse, has "never dared to write as funny as he can"), is the author of the "Autocrat of the Breakfast-table," a work which, for months to come, will command as much attention from the public as the Autocrat himself did from the lodgers at the boarding-house where he resided. As the title implies, it was during the matutinal meal that the conversations and thoughts occurred, and that the poems were recited, which are now for the first time collected into a neat volume. Let any one take it up at breakfast-time, and we venture to say that the "Autocrat" will assert his power, and that the reader will not put it down again till the dinner-hour—by which time he will have finished it.

Journal of Psychological Medicine. Edited by J. FORBES WINSLOW. London: John Churchill.

THE January number of Dr. Winslow's excellent quarterly review opens with a very interesting article on "Bluet d'Arbères and Literary Fools," founded on M. Delepierre's "Etudes Bio-bibliographiques sur les Fous Littéraires." The kind of folly which characterised Bluet d'Arbères and others of the same class is not incompatible with the possession of a certain literary or artistic powers; but, "in whatever manner the intellectual faculties and the emotions are called into play, there is found a preponderance of their systematic manifestations. This is co-existent with, and it is, indeed, significant of, a weakened volitional power and a deficiency of co-ordination in the mental faculties. The thoughts, imperfectly controlled by the will, hasten along as in the consistent inconsistency of dreaming, and they are reflected in the voluble tongue and restless actions; while the emotions rapidly succeed each other—joy alternating with grief, anger with fear—upon the most trifling incitement." This is the folly of the Court Fools, which was always mixed up with a certain amount of wit, fancy, and sometimes even of poetry. Fools of the

temperament, and with the qualities and defects described by this writer, might also possess, and sometimes have possessed, great talent for music and composition, in its simplest form. The fool, in the technical sense of the word, does not take kindly to pictorial art, which requires, as preliminaries, a certain amount of observation and application, without either emotion or fancy; but this is fully compensated for by the extensive connection with painting maintained by the fool of ordinary life. Another highly interesting paper is "Don Quixote, a Psychological Study," from the French of Dr. Guardia, who himself is only a commentator on the Spanish physician, Dr. Morejon. Dr. Morejon in this "History of Spanish Medicine," claims Cervantes as a confrère, "on account of the medical observations which adorn his greatest book, and which have almost escaped the attention of his most ardent admirers." Don Quixote, according to this doctor, was a sufferer from monomania, or rather from a masia of a multimorbid character, and this proposition is ingeniously proved (as it might be equally proved in the case of Hamlet) by an analysis of the predisposition, occasional causes, development, progress, treatment, the diagnosis, and the termination of his supposed mental malady. There is a third literary and philosophical article on the Psychology of Kant, and the rest of the number is devoted either to medical subjects or questions of medical jurisprudence.

Sport and its Pleasures. London: Chapman and Hall.

THE author of this lively and interesting little book tells you not only how to kill your game, but also how to cook it and eat it. He recommends his readers to shoot their own birds, because the exercise will sharpen their appetites; but having once brought them down, they are not to roast, stew, or make them into puddings or pies at random. There are certain ways and times for all things, but especially for the cooking of pheasants, partridges, wild ducks, woodcocks, snipes, bustards, and hares. The author appears to have shot and eaten game of all descriptions, in all parts of the world, but "until such time as the Emperor of all the Russias fell out with the Sultan Abdul, Light of the World, and the most sensual spendthrift of his age, and England, as usual, put her finger into the pie, with the aid of France, to complete the hash *à la Sebastopol*, he was but slightly acquainted with the varied physical and gastronomical pleasures afforded to that restless biped, man, by the interesting and innocent little bird called woodcock." However, at present, the author of "Sport and its Pleasures" understands game of all kinds, "physically and gastronomically," as he himself would say, from the north of Scotland to Constantinople, the Crimea, and Asia Minor; and we may add that he possesses the art of communicating his information on the subject in the most agreeable manner possible.

1. *Once Upon a Time.* 2. *Knowledge is Power.* By CHARLES KNIGHT. London: Murray.

TAKING these works together, we get a fair idea of Mr. Knight's talent to amuse and to instruct. The latter is a new edition of a well-known work, in which Mr. Knight treats of the productive forces of modern society; the former is a collection of valuable and entertaining essays on the manners and customs of our forefathers, of which the greater portion had already been perused and admired by the public—principally in the pages of "Household Words," and which has reached a second edition in its present form.

NEW MODE OF PRINTING.—A lecture was given on Monday night in St. Martin's Hall, by Major Beniowski, on a new mode of setting up type for printing, by which means (according to the lecturer) boys can be taught in a few months to work very much more rapidly than the regular professional compositors. The lecture did not proceed far without interruption from some discontented printers who were present, and who denounced the invention as a mode of reducing wages. Major Beniowski replied, that he paid the boys in his employment nearly double what they would get elsewhere, and proceeded, after having composed several words mentioned by the audience, to exhibit the powers of his boys. Two of them set up a paragraph from a newspaper at the rate of 5,000 letters each per hour, and one of them stated that he had only been engaged at the business for five months. This feat, which brought the lecture to a close, could not be performed for some time in consequence of the storm raging in the hall, some of the audience trying to prevent their introduction, while some applauded the major, vehemently gesticulating, and the boys delighted with the fun.

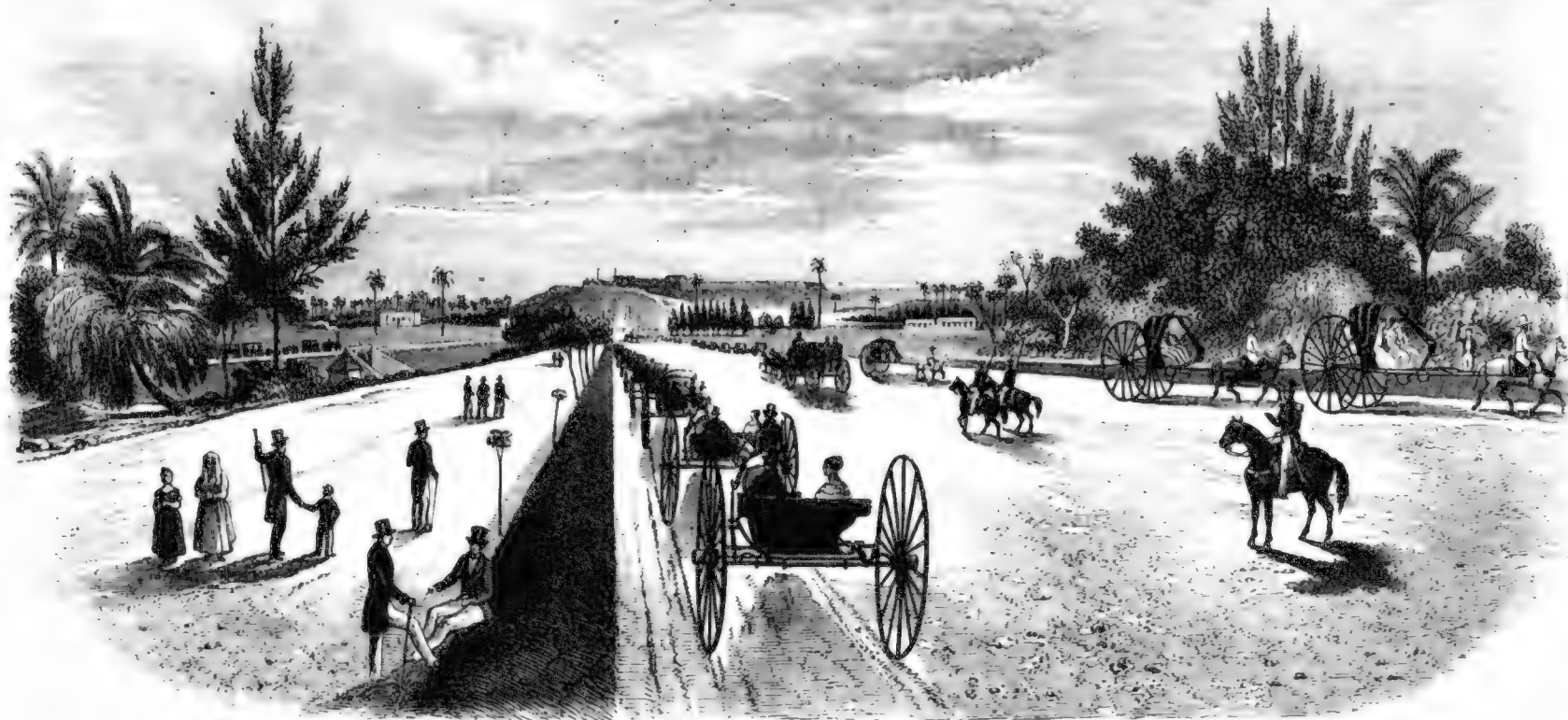
CONFERENCE OF SCHOOLMASTERS.—A "Conference of the Upper and Middle Class Schoolmasters of the United Kingdom," has been held in the Guildhall, London. Resolutions approving the institution of the new examinations by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and thanking the Society of Arts, the College of Preceptors, and other examining bodies, for the benefits conferred by them on middle class education, were passed unanimously.

SAVINGS' BANKS.—Occasional letters are received, entreating that a warning may be given to the public regarding certain new savings' banks in London and in the provinces, which offer the temptation of high rates of interest, and profess to be in possession of subscribed capitals under the Limited Liability Act. "It is, however, impossible," says the "Times," "even though very decided opinions may be entertained with regard to them, to expose any mischief until the occurrence of actual defaults such as are usually not allowed to take place until the last funds have been squandered. All that can be done is to urge every poor person to consult his employer or some established business man before entrusting his savings to any fresh concern, especially if the promises made are particularly attractive."

VISCOUNT INGESTRE'S OPINION OF MR. BRIGHT.—Some days ago, at Stoke-upon-Trent, Viscount Ingestre spoke of Mr. Bright as "a traitor to his country's interests, a traitor to his class, a shallow, selfish, bigoted politician, and a man who was striving more to produce discontent, and misery, and disorder in the country than any other man. He looked upon Mr. Bright as a destroyer of the rights of property, as doing his utmost to set class against class, make them wider apart than they were now, as an unprincipled enemy to the class to which he belonged, who did not merit his unscrupulous attacks, and repelled them with the scorn and contempt they deserved."

NEAPOLITAN PRISONS.—A correspondent of the "Times" says:—"As far as I can ascertain there were, in the month of June, 1858, in the prisons of the Two Sicilies, 8,000 condemned prisoners of all classes, of whom 700 were political prisoners. Besides these there were in prison 2,600 attendants—that is, men waiting for trial—of whom 100 were confined in Santa Maria Apparente, near Naples, without even the hope of a trial, and some of whom had been there seven years. Besides these classes of sufferers, there is a vast number of others, called 'relegati,' who, for some suspicion or other, are scattered through the country, restricted to a certain spot, separated from friends, and cut off from pursuing any career in life."

LORD BROUGHAM AND THE LONDON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—The following circular has been issued on behalf of the London Mechanics' Institute:—"In the year 1823 the London Mechanics' Institute was established by Lord Brougham and Dr. Birkbeck. This institution, the first of its kind, has been the parent of more than 600 similar establishments now in existence, and its founder has therefore a peculiar claim on the liberality of all friends of education. The premises required for the purposes of the institute were demised to Lord Brougham and others for the term of 146 years, at an annual rent of £229. For thirty years the voluntary contributions of the public and annual payments by the members enabled the institute to meet all its expenses; but for the last three years and upwards the receipts have been insufficient, and the rent and dilapidations have fallen altogether upon the lessees, now reduced to two, the representatives of the deceased lessees—not being liable in any way. In the event of Lord Brougham's co-lessee—who is of advanced age and in bad health—dying before him, the whole future responsibility would fall upon Lord Brougham alone, and he, under the terms of the lease, can only be entirely relieved by purchasing the lease at a sum of £3,500. But it has been ascertained that if £2,000 could be raised at once arrangements might be made with the lessor not only to free Lord Brougham from all future liability, but to enable the London Mechanics' Institute to continue its useful labours. It has occurred to Lord Murray and other friends of Lord Brougham, considering the great public services he has performed (more especially in the cause of education) and the heavy expenses he has already incurred, that he is fully entitled to be protected from further pecuniary loss; and you are therefore called upon to join in contributing whatever sum you feel disposed to give for this purpose, in order that £2,000 may now be raised, to be applied by some friends who have kindly undertaken this part of the arrangement, in the purchase, for £3,500, of the remaining term of the lease. Your contributions may be paid in to Messrs. Ransom, Bouvier, and Co., 1, Pall Mall East, 'To the account of the London Mechanics' Institute, on behalf of Lord Brougham.'"



THE "PASEO" AT HAVANA.

SKETCHES IN HAVANA.

The ambition, the cupidity, or the "political necessities" of America keep the island of Cuba constantly before the public mind. If Jonathan is convinced of anything, it is that Cuba is his natural possession; and that sooner or later, by fair means or by foul, it must come under the dominion of the stars and stripes. Force he dare not use; so he professes himself willing to buy the island of Spain, which, however, declines that "pigeon," as our late enemies, the Celestials, might term it. This being the case, our cousin has bethought him of a little account existing between himself and the present possessor of Cuba, which happens to be in his favour, and which he proposes to settle in his own peculiar fashion. In a late number of the "Washington Union," Mr. Buchanan's organ, there is a suggestion that an "attachment should issue," with directions to "our naval constables" to "seize the island of Cuba," in default of the payment by Spain of what she owes to the United States. With all these "loomings" of something in the future, a few sketches in Havana, the Cuban

capital, can hardly fail to interest our readers. The only chance for a stranger to get an insight into the manners of the Havanaese, should he not be provided with letters of introduction, is to take a public *volante*, and, at the hour of five, order the coachman to drive him to the "Paseo." The Paseo overlooks an immense plain, dotted here and there with charming groves of tropical foliage, out of which peep bright, white villas, giving great variety and freshness to the landscape. By a strange caprice of fashion, the Paseo, which is, without denial, one of the finest and most inviting of evening promenades, above all for carriages, is entirely deserted by pedestrians, with the exception of here and there a solitary couple. But the number of *volantes*, with their fair burdens, amply compensate for the scarcity of those whose pride is too great to allow of their walking, and whose means will not permit of their hiring a carriage.

The Havanaese ladies are never by any chance seen on foot, and this for two excellent reasons: the first (and that almost suffices) is, that there is no pathway to the streets, making it impossible for small and delicate

feet to pick their way; and ladies' feet in Havana are so small and delicate! The second reason (and that is not less good) is, that the warmth of the climate has made the women indolent in their habits. Now, indolence with us is not to be commended; but in southern climes it has its charms. In the middle of the day, the streets are deserted by all but blacks; the sole representatives of the softer sex to be met with, braving the sun's rays, are negresses, whose complexions risk nothing in the noontide heat. It is only at an early hour or in the evening that a stranger may catch a glimpse of the Havanaese fair, while taking their *promenade en volante*. Nothing is more natural than the reputation for beauty possessed by the Havanaese ladies, with foreigners, who simply see them in their carriages in the gray of the evening, or in the artificial light of a theatre, partially screened by the curtains of their opera-boxes.

The *volante*, which is the favourite system of locomotion, deserves some few words of description.

The wheels are immense, the shafts of inordinate length, and the



A HAVANESE VOLANTE.



HACKNEY CARRIAGE, HAVANA.



A BALCONY AT HAVANA.

weight of the body, instead of resting entirely on the axletree, is equally divided between the wheels and the horse. Thus is explained why this kind of conveyance is so tiring to the quadruped that has at once to drag and support the load, and so commodious and agreeable to the bipeds that are carried and impelled in it. The public *volante* (of which we give an illustration) with its battered postilion, its lank, undersized horse, its defaced panels, its torn hood, bears no comparison to the elegant *volante* of fashionable society, with its rich silver ornaments.

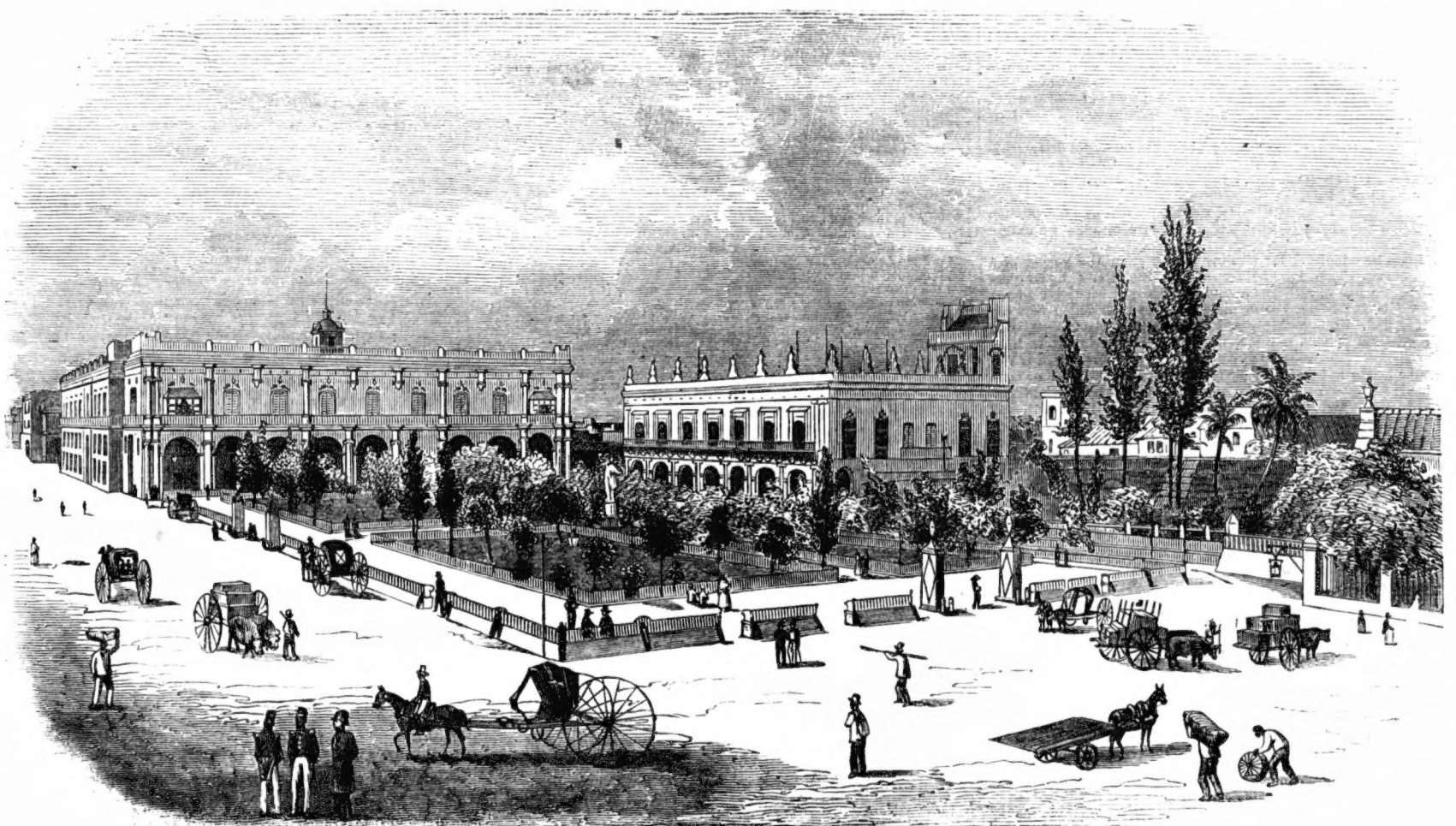
We have said, that the only chance of catching a glimpse of the Havana fair, is while taking their accustomed carriage exercise; we were wrong. Every house in Havana has lofty wide windows, with balconies railed in from the top to the bottom, which, whatever may be said to the contrary, set you thinking more of guitars and serenading

than of thieves. We have seen some of these iron-barred balconies, so cunningly contrived, that by touching a secret spring, three or four of the bars would silently turn upon a noiseless hinge and admit the favoured musician. On passing along the streets, when the shades of evening have cast their sombre shadows upon the city, the rustle of silk, or the movement of a fan, arrests the attention. Turning in the direction of the sound, the passer-by is startled by the light of two bright eyes, and thus another indefinite idea is formed of the fascinations of the Havana ladies. Our last illustration gives a view of the *Place d'Armes*, one of the finest sites in Havana, surrounding which are the chief buildings in the city.

EXECUTION ON BOARD SHIP.—John Kaine, a marine, has been

executed, in China, for the murder of Mr. Sage, second engineer of the *Hesper*. The crews of the various ships manned the rigging, and on signal gun being fired from the *Hesper* the miserable wretch was run up to the starboard foreyard-arm with a jerk that turned his body right over, so that death was instantaneous.

FRENCH IMPORTATIONS OF SLAVE LABOUR.—Since the commencement (in 1853) of immigration to the French islands, there have been introduced into Martinique 5,872 coolies coming direct from India, 114 coolies from British colonies, 6 Chinese, and 697 Africans, making a total of 6,689 immigrants. Guadeloupe received in the same period 4,099 coolies and 1,422 Africans, making 5,521 immigrants. By a recent vote of the Council-General, provision has been made for the introduction of 18,000 more immigrants, of which number 7,000 are to be Africans and 11,000 Chinese, to be brought by a Bordeaux house.



THE PLACE D'ARMES, HAVANA.

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